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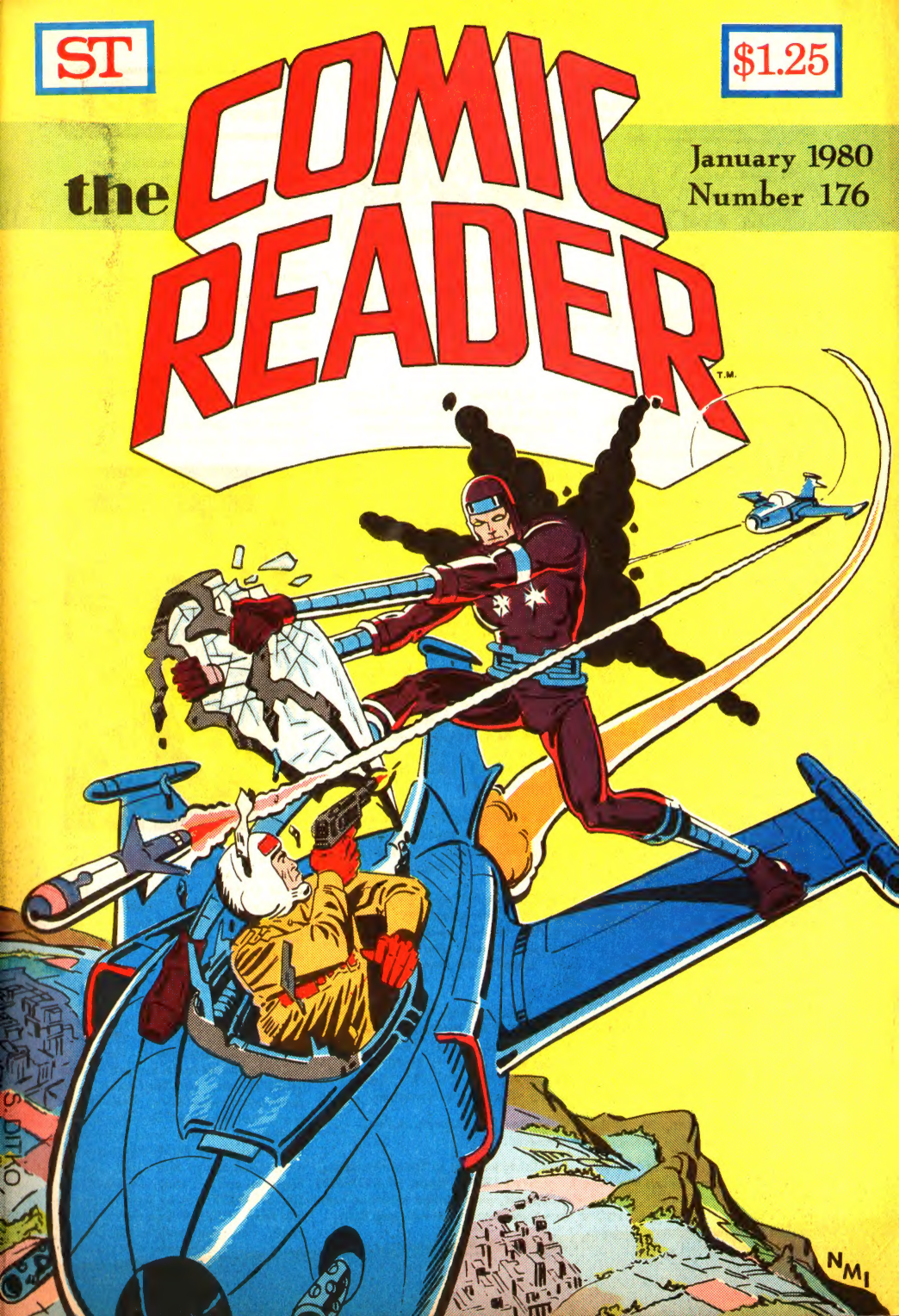
# the COMIC READER™

January 1980
Number 176



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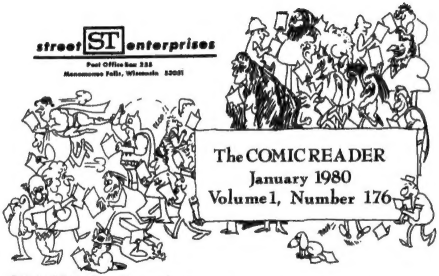

# The COMIC READER
## January 1980
## Volume 1, Number 176

OUR COVERS: Two of Steve Ditko's preliminary covers for the revival issue of MACHINE MAN (#10). Both are © 1979 Marvel Comics Group, A Division of Cadence Industries Corp. All Rights Reserved.

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Managing Editor - Mike Tiefenbacher
Associate Editor - David Finger

Contributing staff: R. Blabbit, Richard Burton, Paulette Carroll, Howard Leroy Davis, Eddie Eddings, Jim Engel, Chuck Fiala, Clay Geerdes, A.J. Hanley, Doug Hazlewood, Fred Hembeck, Larry Houston, Dennis Jensen, Sam Kujava, Denis McFarling, Jacob Moraine, Mitch O'Connell, Bob Staszak, Cat Yronwode

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## Marvel News

There's a great possibility that sometime in 1980 you'll be reading a 48 page Marvel comic for 60¢. According to AD WEEK, Marvel's Jim Galton has been conducting a heavy campaign to gather more advertising for the Marvel line. The conjecture is that Marvel, rather than passing along another price increase with no increase in size, would add a sixteen page signature to the package, which would be composed of nine or ten pages of advertising and six or seven pages of artwork. (A number of Marvel employees have been told to gear up for an increase in pagecount.) Of course, this isn't yet official, and Marvel may again opt for the easy-to-do increase of price only.

Louise Jones, formerly editor of the Warren magazines, has been named editor at Marvel. She'll join the staff effective January 1st, with Danny Fingeroth (currently editor of the reprint line) her assistant. No books have been assigned to her as yet.

Marvel is experimenting with the limited edition comics market (although it's possible there might be mass-marketing of these books), beginning with a new X-MEN book in the works. The format would be similar to the European albums (ASTERIX, etc.) with hard covers, better paper and a higher price. Chris Claremont, John Byrne and Terry Austin will do the story. Further books in the line might include the PRISONER stories done a few years ago by Jack Kirby, Steve Englehart and Gil Kane, a DAREDEVIL-DR. STRANGE book by Roger McKenzie and Frank Miller, and possibly a SPIDER-MAN. The hope would be that fandom could support a character that wouldn't

necessarily be successful on the newsstand.

As mentioned previously, Marvel and Coca-Cola are doing a series of promotional comics to be given away with the large bottle of Coke (the liter bottle, we believe). There will be six comics which will be released in two batches of three: SPIDER-MAN by Ralph Macchio, Jim Mooney and Mike Esposito; FANTASTIC FOUR written and drawn by John Byrne; THE INCREDIBLE HULK by Doug Moench, Steve Ditko and Al Milgrom; with the second group composed of three STAR WARS comics, with Jo Duffy, Archie Goodwin and Chris Claremont doing the writing and Carmine Infantino illustrating. Each comic will be thirty-two pages with no ads, and the the Marvel hero books will introduce new villains and will not be tied into current issues. The covers will unfold to become posters of the characters.

Marvel is also continuing their newspaper supplement experiment. See Jacob Moraine's COMIC STRIP CIRCUS column on page 13 for details. Denny O'Neil is writing an eight page SPIDER-MAN-HULK strip for one of the issues.

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We're happy to report that Marie Severin is doing well after her recent gall bladder operation and she'll be returning to Marvel in January.

Marvel has yet to announce any new titles, but the reprint books are holding press time for Marvel to gear-up for either the larger size books or new titles. Most likely at the moment is MOON KNIGHT, with the CALEB HAMMER and DOCTOR WHO projects still possibilities. There are even reports that Stan Lee is going around saying that he wants to do THE SILVER SURFER again on a regular basis, but he's looking for the right artist. It's a shame Michelangelo is dead...

Following MARVEL TEAM-UP #100 (which, following format, will be a 48 pager), there will be a few issues featuring team-ups that don't include SPIDER-MAN. Mike Barr and Ron Wilson are currently working on a HULK-POWER MAN story, for example.

The SHOGUN WARRIORS book will be changing direction with #16, with the Earth residents becoming more autonomous.

Chris Claremont is changing the direction of DOCTOR STRANGE, away from the macabre-type of plots that have been prevalent and toward the fantasy-magical type done in the '60s.

Roger McKenzie and Walt Simonson have left BATTLESTAR GALACTICA and the search for their successors continues. Steven Grant and Brent Anderson have done an issue, and

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Grant has written another two-parter with Howard Chaykin doing the first part and Sal Buscema the second.

Brent Anderson is also drawing an inventory DOCTOR STRANGE story written by J.M. DeMatteis. David Michelinie has written a fill-in DR. STRANGE that was drawn by Kerry Gammill.

The Roy Thomas-Craig Russell adaptation of ELRIC will debut in a future issue of EPIC ILLUSTRATED. The first issue will include work by Ernie Colon, Jim Starlin, Mirco Ilic, Wendy Pini, Bob Larkin, Ray Rue, John Pocsik, Thomas Blackshire, Arthur Suydam, George Bush, Carl Potts, Stan Lee, John Buscema, Rudy Nebres and Rick Veitch, with a cover by Frank Frazetta.

That CAPTAIN AMERICA treasury we described last month (which was to tie into the TV movie) was scrapped when the show was scheduled too early to take advantage of.

A Chris Claremont-Mike Vosburg JOHN CARTER ANNUAL story will turn up as a STAR WARS story.

Mike Golden is doing the 1980 MICRONAUTS ANNUAL. Armando Gil will become permanent inker of the regular MICRONAUTS book when Pat Broderick takes over the book.

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #6 will feature the third version of the STAR-LORD origin by Doug Moench and Tom Sutton, which will attempt to tie the first two together a bit more.

David Michelinie will be writing and plotting the second half of Marv Wolfman's Black Cat two-parter in THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, while Roger Stern will do the same for the second half of Marv's Vulture two-parter and Mike Barr will perform similar duties for the second half of Marv's STAR TREK story scheduled for #4 and 5. In addition, two other inventory

plots Marv left for SPIDER-MAN books, one featuring the Black Widow, the other with the Big Wheel, will be scripted by someone else.

Mike Golden is doing a fill-in issue of POWER MAN.

THE INCREDIBLE HULK #249 is drawn by Steve Ditko.

Wally Wood is inking Frank Miller's cover for DAREDEVIL #164.

Upcoming in MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE: Thing and the Angel vs. The Toad.

Tex Blaisdell will be doing inking for some of the books edited by Al Milgrom.

J.M. DeMatteis is doing a MAN-THING fill-in with Joe Brozowski and Bob Wiacek, not to be confused with the five-page MAN-THING tale by DeMatteis and Brozowski done last year. DeMatteis is also writing a Spider-Man-Nighthawk team-up for MARVEL TEAM-UP.

MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL #15, featuring STAR TREK, was supposed to cost $2.00, but someone somewhere slipped up and the magazine was mistakenly labeled and shipped at the $1.50 price. Considering the large sales potential, Marvel stands to lose quite a bit on the mistake.

Red Ronan will reappear in an upcoming issue of THE AVENGERS.

Ion, a new villainess, debuts in MACHINE MAN #15. The Satan Squad appears in #16, and both stories are written by Tom DeFalco.

Spider-Woman will battle the Human Fly (the Spider-Man foe, not the hero).

Bill Sienkiewicz is drawing an issue of FANTASTIC FOUR.

Iron Man will guest-star in SHE-HULK #6.

Ever feel like telling Marvel what to do with their comics? Well Marvel has fulfilled the fantasies of many (?), because on the market at this very moment is SPIDER-MAN/HULK toilet paper featuring a six page story done especially for it. Just the thing for camping trips -- you'll have something to read.

## Whitman News

Another era has passed. Western Publishing Co.'s Gold Key Comics Group has passed into that great haven in the sky for moribund comics group names. The line will now be known as Whitman Comics, with all distribution limited to plastic bags. Western, beginning as supplier to Dell Comics in 1934 and continuing as Gold Key Comics since 1962, was the nation's oldest comic company to sell on national newsstands. Starting with issues cover dated "003" (March, 1980), the line will only be available through the outlets carrying the bagged comics already (such as K-Mart). These will most probably continue to be bagged as they are now, according to genre and company (i.e., Disney characters in one bag, Warner characters in another, etc.). However, because of the sudden changeover, the specifics are not known at this time. We're not sure if the humor and serious titles will be mixed.

THE BLACK HOLE #1-3 have appeared in bagged form already, and #1 and 2 turn out to be reprints of the adaptation of the film from WALT DISNEY SHOWCASE #54, drawn by Dan Spiegle. #3 (titled BEYOND THE BLACK HOLE on the cover) is new and drawn by Al McWilliams. (Of note is the fact that for the first time in almost twenty-five years, Dan Spiegle is without a regular assignment from Western Publishing.)

The switchover was made, according to Gold Key's Wally Green, because the return percentage from newsstand distribution was growing alarmingly larger in recent years, and the percentages were far more profitable for the Whitman bagged comics distributed through department, variety and grocery stores. Since the Western Printing empire has far more contacts with these types of stores because of their extensive lines of coloring books, children's books, games, puzzles and playing cards, the decision to go exclusively to this type of distribution was not difficult to make. Green believes that if DC and Marvel had the same option open to them they too might go this way.

With the switchover to bagged comics, the production has been decreased by almost 40%, and the weakest titles have been cancelled. Gone are: THE BEAGLE BOYS VS. UNCLE SCROOGE, BORIS KARLOFF TALES OF MYSTERY, BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY, GRIMM'S GHOST STORIES, HAPPY DAYS, RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT! and TUROK SON OF STONE. Only WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES remains a monthly, with MICKEY MOUSE, BUGS BUNNY, HUEY, DEWEY AND LOUIE JUNIOR WOODCHUCKS, TOM AND JERRY, SUPER GOOF, CHIP 'N' DALE, POPEYE THE SAILOR, PORKY PIG, LITTLE LULU and DAFFY DUCK shifting down to six issues a year, DONALD DUCK and UNCLE SCROOGE going to ten issues a year, DAISY AND DONALD going to seven issues a year, WOODY WOODPECKER and TWEETY AND SYLVESTER going to five issues a year, and THE PINK PANTHER going down to four. Remaining at bi-monthly are THE BLACK HOLE, FLASH GORDON, BUCK ROGERS, BATTLE OF THE PLANETS, BEEP BEEP THE ROAD RUNNER, YOSEMITE SAM, LOONEY TUNES, BEETLE BAILEY and WINNIE-THE-POOH.

This means there are only four non-humor titles left (BLACK HOLE, FLASH, BUCK and BATTLE OF THE PLANETS), and only one book is not licensed (LITTLE LULU, which has carried Western's copyright for the last decade). The total issues per year is now 167, down from 270, a drop of 38%.

Beginning with #9, BUCK ROGERS will be written by J. Marc DeMatteis. Marc promises that he and editor Michael Teitelbaum are attempting to do an interesting, thoughtful science fiction comic along the lines of the STAR TREK TV show, somewhat of a change in direction for the usually sedate Whitman approach.

Meanwhile, six new Dyna-Brite comics have appeared. They are:
(11350) MICKEY MOUSE ALBUM
(11352) DONALD DUCK: NO SUCH VARMINT
(11354) SUPER GOOF MEETS SUPER THIEF
(11355) UNCLE SCROOGE CLASSICS
(11360) WINNIE-THE-POOH FUN AND FANTASY
(11361) GYRO GEARLOOSE AND THE DISNEY DUCKS

## Coming Comics

BUGS BUNNY No. 218, March. New. [1/3]

Walt Disney DONALD DUCK No. 217, March. Reprints. [1/3]

Walt Disney HUEY, DEWEY AND LOUIE JUNIOR WOODCHUCKS No. 62, March. New. [1/3]

Walt Disney UNCLE SCROOGE No. 174, March. Reprints. [1/3]

Walt Disney DAISY AND DONALD No. 42, April. New. [1/10]

PORKY PIG No. 94, March. New. [1/10]

Walt Disney SUPER GOOF No. 58, March. Reprints. [1/10]

WALTER LANTZ WOODY WOODPECKER No. 188, March. New. [1/10]

KK GIVEAWAYS: MARCH OF COMICS No. 461: THE PINK PANTHER
MARCH OF COMICS No. 462: BABY SNOOTS

Walt Disney THE BLACK HOLE No. 1, March. Reprinting the first half of the movie adaptation as drawn by Dan Spiegle. [1/24]

WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES No. 474, March. One third new, the rest reprints. [1/24]

FLASH GORDON No. 28, March. New stories by Carlos Garzon. [1/31]

LITTLE LULU No. 258, March. New. [1/31]

POPEYE THE SAILOR No. 156, March. New. [1/31]

DC will very likely be adding two new books to the line in the near future. One of them will probably be TEEN TITANS, although no one is saying at the moment.

THE BEST OF DC #6 will star SUPERMAN and the theme is "Headline Stories of the Daily Planet." Stories from SUPERMAN #79, 85 and 280, ACTION #211, 331 and 436, LOIS LANE #17 and 45 and JIMMY OLSEN #51 and 63 are included. Julius Schwartz is the editor.

A couple of old characters are making reappearances. Animal Man, star of five STRANGE ADVENTURES stories in the late sixties, reappears in WONDER WOMAN #267 (and he's

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finally got a last name: Buddy Baker). Then, in an AQUAMAN story in an upcoming issue of WORLD'S FINEST COMICS, Bob Rozakis brings back The Dolphin, the Jay Scott Pike character that appeared in SHOWCASE #79.

Marv Wolfman is also getting into the revival business with GREEN LANTERN. Eclipso, the schizoid villain-hero, will become a major foe for GL in the first Wolfman-written issue. Other Green Lantern problems will include a challenge to his ownership of the Green Lantern by the people of Ungara, Abin Sur's home planet (the man who passed the lantern to Hal Jordan). Meanwhile, there will be a government crackdown on Ferris Aircraft after a few of their planes crash -- and Marv promises to resolve the Hal Jordan-Carol Ferris relationship. Also -- following the battle with the Weaponers of Qward, the Guardians will call on Adam Strange to become a Green Lantern to replenish the ranks.

Marv Wolfman and Jim Starlin will be teaming up to do the 25th issue of DC COMICS PRESENTS which will feature the first repeat (non-continued story) of a character, with Superman and Green Lantern teaming up. #26

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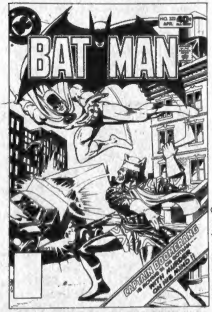
will be a Superman-Phantom Stranger team-up written by Paul Levitz and it will clear up the Pete Ross subplot he introduced in the SUPERMAN/LEGION team-up in DCP #13. Len Wein and Jim Starlin are doing a three part tale featuring J'onn J'onzz, Manhunter from Mars in part one, Supergirl in part two, and The Spectre in part three. This will follow the GL issue.

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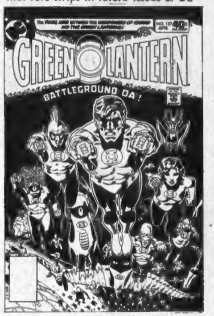
The LEGEND OF THE BATMAN series, originally slated to appear in March, April and May, has been rescheduled for April, May and June. UNTOLD TALES OF THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES will be unaffected, appearing in August, September and October. Len Wein has written all the BATMAN issues, with John Byrne doing the first and Jim Aparo drawing the last two.

Len Wein's series for HOUSE OF MYSTERY and WEIRD WAR TALES have been assigned to artists. J. Marc DeMatteis's I -- VAMPIRE series for HOM will be drawn by Tom Sutton; Robert Kanigher's WAR THAT TIME FORGOT series will be drawn by Franc Reyes; and the CREATURE COMMANDOS, also for WEIRD WAR, will be drawn by Pat Broderick and John Celardo from J.M. DeMatteis's script. These series have yet to be definitely scheduled, although I -- VAMPIRE will appear initially in two consecutive issues and then appear bi-monthly.

A few characters are getting one-shot solo strips in future issues of DE-

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TECTIVE COMICS. Jason Bard returns in a TALES OF GOTHAM CITY story written by Mike Barr and drawn by Dan Spiegle for DC #491; Man-Bat appears in #492 in a story by Bob Rozakis and Romeo Tanghal; and Red Tornado gets his first solo shot in #493 in a tale by J.M. DeMatteis and Jose Delbo. #492 features a Robin vs. Penguin story by Jack C. Harris and Alex Saviuk, and #493 has a Batman-Batgirl team-up by Cary Burkett and Don Newton. #494-495 will contain a two-part BATMAN story by Michael Fleisher featuring The Crime Doctor and someone named Sterling St. Silver.

Mike Barr, George Tuska and Bob Smith did the JOHNNY PERIL adventure for the 200th issue of THE UNEXPECTED, which features a cover by Michael Kaluta.

Because of the LEGEND OF THE BATMAN commitment, Jim Aparo won't

be doing four issues of THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD. #163, with Batman and Black Lightning, will be by Paul Kupperberg and Dick Giordano; #164 will star Batman and Hawkman by J. Marc DeMatteis and Jose Garcia Lopez; #165 features Batman and Man-Bat and will be by Marty Pasko and Don Newton; and #166 is Batman and Zatanna and will be by Mike Barr and Giordano.

Wally Wood has returned to do some work for DC, and will be inking WONDER WOMAN #269 over Jose Delbo's pencils as well as drawing the cover for a TIME WARP which will have a story written to fit it.

SUPERMAN #349 will be a Marty Pasko fill-in which features Superman returning to an alternate Earth populated by a Daily Planet staff consisting of Lewis Lane, Jenny Olsen, Penny White, and super-heroes such as Superwoman and her cousin Superboy, Aquawoman and Wonder Man. Following that will be Marv Wolfman's first issues, which will consist of three two-part adventures which are self-contained but which will tie together to become a six-parter.

A future three-parter for ACTION COMICS will feature the reformation of Lex Luthor which Julie Schwartz feels rivals "The Death of Superman" as a stand-out in the Superman canon. #509 features a group of skeptics who believe man has never been in space and that Superman is a fraud and a hoax. In #507-508, Pa Kent returns in the present day to meet his grown foster son. Cary Bates, Curt Swan and Frank Chiaramonte did or are doing all of the above.

NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERBOY #7 features a story in which Superboy absorbs deadly radiation on an alien world and then is faced with the choice of leaving, which will cause the death of the planet's inhabitants, or staying and never seeing Earth again. A future issue will show the first meeting of Inspector Bill Henderson and Superboy.

Marv Wolfman and Jim Starlin are doing a BATMAN/BRAVE AND THE BOLD crossover story involving Batman in England vying with the menace of the Arthurian legends. The B&B issue features The Demon.

In SUPERMAN FAMILY, Marv Wolfman's plans for the LOIS LANE and JIMMY OLSEN strips call for Lois having her entire memory erased and setting up a new life in the midwest, while Jimmy gets involved in the political elections, both of which will be three-part stories, culminating in a 24-page Lois-Jimmy story at election time next November.

Meanwhile, in the SUPERGIRL strip, Supergirl "creates" a villain called Dynamic in #202 (by Jack C. Harris, Win Mortimer and Vince Colletta) and meets herself as she first appeared in "The Supergirl From Planet Earth."

FLASH #286 features a new Flash villain called The Rainbow Rider, co-created by Len Wein and Cary Bates.

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Firestorm joins the JUSTICE LEAGUE roster in #179.

Marshall Rogers has drawn a TIME WARP story from a script by new DC writer Charlie Boatner.

Brian Bolland, English JUDGE DREDD artist who did the cover to GREEN LANTERN #127 (page 5) has been assigned the covers of #130 and 131 as well. The first is for a Bob Rozakis story featuring Sonar, the second for a Mike Barr tale with Evil Star.

Bouncing Boy and Duo Damsel reappear in THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #266 in a story plotted by Gerry Conway. #265 was plotted by Conway as well, with J.M. DeMatteis writing, and in both cases, Jim Janes and Dave Hunt illustrate.

E. Nelson Bridwell has assembled a new Monster Society of Evil to battle the combined might of Captain Marvel, Mary Marvel and Capt. Marvel, Jr. over a few issues of WORLD'S FINEST. Mr. Mind remains the leader.

ADVENTURE COMICS #474's PLASTIC MAN story was written by Marv Wolfman, filling in for Marty Pasko.

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Gerry and Carla Conway are the proud parents of a new daughter named Cara. Congratulations!

DC artist Alex Saviuk contributed the artwork for the movie advertising of the film ARABIAN ADVENTURE.

Batman will face Two-Face in a two-part story written twice by Marv Wolfman (both of him) in his first and second BATMAN assignments.

From Mike Uslan comes word that progress on the BATMAN film is moving along rapidly, and that they expect to make a major announcement (probably involving casting) shortly.

## Media Review

Well, Lee Kramer, SILVER SURFER producer, and his client/girl friend Olivia Newton-John, have broken up, so don't expect the latter to be cast as Shalla Bal -- and also, figure that the musical slant may be jettisoned. Further reports on the film indicate that half of the 50% financing for the film comes from Cadence Itself -- and also that a Stan Lee screenplay has yet to get much beyond the presentation stage. So things are still very iffy at the moment... Speaking of Stan Lee, Alain Resnais and Lee will finally get together for a movie project following the completion of Resnais' current film, MON ONCLE D'AMERIQUE. Resnais is a well-known fan of the comics... The CONAN movie is now being produced by Dino DeLaurentiis, with Edward R. Pressman being phased out. John Milius, the director, is back to using the screenplay he wrote and filming is now scheduled to begin in the autumn of 1980. The budget is in the $10 to $15,000,000 range... Speaking of large budgets, producer-directors George Lucas and Steven Spielberg have a new collaborative effort slated to begin filming in the spring called RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK, which has a budget of $20,000,000. Described only as high adventure with heroic characters, four sequels are planned already... Walt Disney Productions, who recently received their first PG ratings on two of their films (BLACK HOLE and MIDNIGHT MADNESS) are doing another first: they're co-producing two films with Paramount. One is POPEYE, the Robert Evans-Robert Altman-Robin Williams project which starts filming early next year, and the other is DRAGON SLAYER, set in 6th Century England about a sorcerer's apprentice who slays a dragon. Hal Barwood and Matthew Robbins wrote it, Robbins will direct. It's possible either may be rated PG... Fernando Lamas will play Don Diego de la Vega's father in George Hamilton's version of ZORRO, THE GAY BLADE... Charles Schulz and Lee Mendelson have a new feature-length cartoon coming out in 1980, BON VOYAGE, CHARLIE BROWN! AND DON'T COME BACK. They also have a new CBS special, SHE'S A GOOD SKATE, CHARLIE BROWN for 1980... THE NUDE BOMB (the return of Maxwell Smart) may undergo another title change (let's hope).

The point, it appears, in DC suing Filmation (according to a more complete item in VARIETY) over trademarks (not copyrights) infringed by the latter's Superstretch and Manta and Moray characters was the $1,206,857 DC received in judgement. Quite an incentive... The NEW FANTASTIC FOUR cartoons (the ones with Herbie the robot) are being syndicated by ARP Films... Veteran animator (Warner Bros, M-G-M, Walter Lantz) Tex Avery has been named supervisor of a new Hanna-Barbera cartoon called QUICKLY KOALA. It sounds to me that H-B is returning to the type of character they found their initial success with (funny animals) rather than the strange Archie-type programs they've been churning out the last fifteen years... Former Tarzan and Doc Savage star Ron Ely has been made host of Sandy Frank Productions' FACE THE MUSIC, a musical gameshow... CBS is doing THE RETURN OF THE STEPFORD WIVES as a TV movie.

The three networks have announced their second season schedules, and the surprises are that both BUCK ROGERS and THE INCREDIBLE HULK have survived. Except for the CBS Monday night schedule (five compatible shows) and ABC's new GOODTIME GIRLS (with Annie Potts, Georgia Engel, Lorna Patterson and Francine Tacker as four roommates in 1942 Washington DC), nothing looks too interesting. I have hopes for UNITED STATES, but we'll wait and see... YOUNG MAVERICK seems to be having rough going at the moment, and a lot of the criticism has to do with how little Charles Frank resembles James Garner. If you can reconcile that, give the show a try. It's entertaining, and a welcome diversion from the drivel that passes as drama these days... THE (old) AVENGERS and THE RETURN OF THE SAINT will be seen in the same Friday night slots that the NEW AVENGERS and NIGHT STALKER have been shown in (which means a lot of preeemting for basketball and I don't get to see either because CBS's Friday night slate isn't shown on Milwaukee's affiliate). Sort of a neat coincidence, though: two shows debuting in the U.S. within a month of each other (YOUNG MAVERICK and RETURN OF THE SAINT) both of which feature characters ostensibly the sons of Roger Moore... I would say the second CAPTAIN AMERICA pilot has pretty well settled the question of its every going to series. Don't hold your breath.

BATTLESTAR GALACTICA isn't dead at all, fans, as ABC, noting the rather disappointing showing MORK AND MINDY made on Sundays, concluded that BG shouldn't have been cancelled. What they're doing is a new two-hour telemovie called GALACTICA FINDS EARTH, which should be self-explanatory. However (you can't have everything, gang), it appears it

will have an entirely new cast -- apparently they'll be descendents -- although Lorne Greene will show up to provide some continuity. Since my objections to the show were the plots and the acting, maybe something good will come of it... Speaking of sequels, James West and Artemus Gordon return again in MORE WILD WILD WEST, starring Robert Conrad and Ross Martin. It will show up this summer or next fall.

Keep watching BUCK ROGERS IN THE 25TH CENTURY this season and you'll see an episode scripted by Martin Pasko. He's writing another one, as is Denny O'Neil, but their sale and production will depend on whether the show survives.

Add another comic character to the movie sweepstakes. POGO will become a stop-action animated film (in a process that took thirteen years to perfect, they say), producers Marc Chinoy and Kerry Stowell (Stowmar Productions) aiming for Summer, 1980 release. The budget is (only) $2 million, and most of the voices have been recorded. Stan Freberg will be Albert, Ruth Buzzi (may be) Pogo, Jonathan Winters (may be) Churchy, Vincent Price will be the Deacon, and Jimmy Breslin will be P.T. Bridgeport. Let's hope they don't use some old laundry detergent toys and just move 'em around...

Roy Thomas and Gerry Conway have been signed to write a science fiction-horror feature for Barry Krost Productions (WHEN A STRANGER CALLS). Its title and plot details are secret at the moment, but it's a contemporary horror story based on a book Thomas optioned this year.

Zeppo Marx died November 29th at age 79, the last of the Marx brothers. Forever eclipsed by three more talented brothers, Zeppo got very little recognition during his life for the thankless role he had to play. I don't care what anybody says, I liked him. - R. Blabbit

**HI & SY** "THOSE GOOFY GEEZERS" by BORIS TITTERS

## TCR Mailboat

E. NELSON BRIDWELL, New York, NY: Thanks for the nice review of SUPER FRIENDS. It's nice to know our efforts are appreciated. The book's actually easier to write than it was at first -- when there was the problem of what to do with Wendy and Marvin. Thankfully, Norm Maurer dreamed up some super-kids we could really do something with.

By the way, Rona Blabbit was wrong about SUPER FRIENDS. It was never done by Filmation, only by Hanna-Barbera. Filmation did the DC animated shows in the '60s, as well as the recent BATMAN show (about which the less said the better).

About the Marvel-Fass lawsuit: I was asked to help get evidence because DC was one of the defendents! Why? At the time, Independent News was distributing Marvel! I pointed out a number of villains in the Fass books whose names were lifted from DC and Marvel books (including Dr. Doom and Dr. Fate).

I agree that Superman does not have ESP/TK powers, a suggestion which has been made before. Frankly, I AM a bit disturbed by Superman's ability to see what's happening on other planets. However, his supposed response to the sound of a gunshot is probably based on "The Midnight Murder Show," though there he responded to the click of the trigger mechanism BEFORE the shot was actually fired. I have my own theories about the powers of both Supermen (Earth-One and Earth-Two). Perhaps I'll publish them in the not-too-distant future.

In response to Lester Boutillier's letter, there is a hero who is not Anglo-Saxon, yet was a top seller for many years -- Blackhawk! As originally told, his origin made him a Pole -- meaning the final Blackhawks roster included TWO Poles and only one American! True, later writers, unaware of Eisner's origin story, treated Blackhawk as an American, but they were mistaken. Wonder what his real name was? (His brother and sister undoubtedly had the Polish equivalents of the names "Jack" and "Connie.")

By the way, a while back the Bantam adaptations were mentioned. These were not the first in the Skylark Illustrated series. DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE, FRANKENSTEIN and TREASURE ISLAND preceded them. They were done in obvious imitation of the Pendulum Now Age series (twelve of which, cut by 8 pages each, were reprinted as the first dozen Marvel Classics). As of this fall, the Now Age series includes sixty titles. Pendulum has also done a twelve-volume U.S. History, twelve volumes of biographies (two to the volume), and ten modern works (from THE CAINE MUTINY to STAR WARS).

By the way, I'm currently doing

## HI & SY "THOSE GOOFY GEEZERS" by BORIS TUTIERS

a four part Monster Society SHAZAM story, with Mr. Mind, Sivana, Ibac, Mr. Atom, King Kull, Black Adam and Oggar (from the "Cult of the Curse" serial).

[Speaking of classics series, King Comics has published at least 24 issues of their own series, reprinted from a series originally published in Spain. They're 79¢ each.

Regarding Blackhawk: I'm of the opinion (if it matters) that there are at least two different Blackhawks (perhaps three) parading around under the same name. The Quality Blackhawk, was contradicted by Quality in #107 (which was possibly a reprint, although I'm not sure) in a text page which said that Blackhawk was an American voluntarily flying with the Polish air force. When Dick Giordano took over as editor in 1968 (#242), Blackhawk's real name was given as Bart Hawk. Somewhere along the line (evidently before the end of the war) the second Blackhawk was replaced with the Blackhawk that finished up with Quality and went on eleven more years at DC (the Earth-One character). The recent version is another person, if you ask me -- a rather repulsive group of mercenaries hardly fits my image of the group from the previous 243 issues (and, this would mean that, on Earth-One, Chuck wasn't needlessly offed).

But even so, Blackhawk's Polish heritage was masked by Eisner's version as well in that Eisner never named him anything other than the VERY Anglo-Saxon Blackhawk.

By the way, I like the idea that Blackhawk's name is Bart Hawk for a very simple reason: I like to believe that he's a descendent of Tom Hawk, aka Tomahawk. MT]

BRETT BYDAIRK, 114 S. Waccamaw, Columbia, SC 29205: About the title of a comic strip, mentioned in TCR #175, p. 12: KNOBS by George Breisacher is the title in the Charlotte OBSERVER (North Carolina). Since Mr. Breisacher is a staff artist for that paper, I suspect KNOBS is the title he intends.

[And it's the title in use everywhere we've seen it. Apparently, somewhere between the United Feature Syndicate ad in EDITOR & PUBLISHER and its appearance, the title was changed. MT]

ALAN LIGHT, 15800 Route 84 North, East Moline, IL 61244: Just a quick note here in response to your statement that Murray Bishoff is paid by the page. He isn't. He has always been paid a flat fee for the entire column.

By the way, Murray will be leaving his monthly column at the end of this year. TBG #321 will carry the final column, although he will continue to do a monthly events calendar and perhaps other occasional contributions.

Keep up the good work with TCR.

[Sorry about that, and I'm sorrier to hear that Murray won't be doing a regular news column. I enjoyed it, Murray, and good luck for the future. MT]

BORIS TUTIERS, Schmulek, SERBIA: Hello Jerry also Mike of America:

I am too happy of words for the publicating of HI AND SY in U.S. COMIC READER! I read each month and enjoyable! You will know if I tell you too besides cartoon I am now acting the bug's meal. Soon I am also making movie in native Serbia and to star in. The name of the title is to be called: HOTRODS TO BOHEMIA. Already papers of news say -- Boris Tutiers, he is Serbian "Touch" Connors! Good music too will be the sounding track of Dizzy Arnoozy and His Clean Tubas. Director? Garbo Kicker, director from hit: LIZARD BOY OF THE WEST. Soon I hope America will greet personally myself for fans of HI AND SY! Look for the movie! And at! Ha! Ho!

[Mr. Tutiers is a cartoonist of long standing, much admired in Eastern European comics circles. HI AND SY is translated for us by John Durning II and relettered by our own Jim Engel, and we're quite honored to be exclusive representatives of the Serbian comic weekly KRONES in the U.S. Mr. Tutiers has a long affiliation with films as well, and can be seen in a cameo role in Roman Polanski's KNIFE IN THE WATER, and a larger role in REPULSION. MT]

WAYNE E. BRESCH, #18-2590 Austin Avenue, Coquitlam, BC CANADA V3K 5X4: I and I'm sure many other readers of your publication more than applaud the stand you took against Kim Thompson in #175's MAILBOAT. Although I still frequently read the COMICS JOURNAL, I have always deplored their style of yellow journalism and their exploitation of the behind-the-scenes office politics in the Mighty Marvel Empire. We are all different, which is what makes us all unique. If we all were in complete agreement on any issue, we would all be pretty bland. I, however, feel that to devote extensive coverage to Jim Shooter's dissensions with Marv Wolfman, Rick Marschall, et al is, to say the very least, cheap. As any person who has ever had a job, with some degree of responsibility knows, decisions have to be made. They may have to be decisions that will not win you any popularity contests, but nevertheless decisions that have to be made because you have to think of your company first and foremost. I do not think that it is fair to Jim to use his business decisions, whether right or wrong, to fill up pages of a publication. COMICS JOURNAL is certainly not the only one guilty of this act. Jim Steranko does it in even more detail in MEDIASCENE. No, I am not a friend of Jim Shooter's, and I'm neither taking his side, nor Marv's, nor Rick's. Of course, there will be readers who say that, as supporters of Marvel books, they have a right to know what goes on in the creative process at the publishing end. Does it really serve any purpose to know that Jim has alienated a lot of people, as well as lost a lot of friends by doing his job? I really have to wonder about that. So when Kim Thompson has the nerve to tell you that you are doing us a great disservice by running Paulette Carroll's articles, I can only see red. Bravo and kudos to you, Mike, for your response. Now, if only Marilyn Beth-

ke had the guts to write you, my satisfaction would be complete. (However, I guess you must have some degree of respect for TCJ because you have a full page ad in their latest issue.)

[Yes, we have respect for TCJ. We just don't see eye to eye editorially, which seems a good reason for both of us to exist. You're right, it's our viewpoint that publishing gripes of workers against the company, or company vs. workers in our news sections serves no purpose since there can be no way for us to be fair about it. I've heard more stories of management cruelty than I'd care to think about, and only a few worker incompetence stories. Yet, in all probability, there's plenty of incompetency on both sides. So what? The only thing that really matters to me is how the comics turn out. The natural inclination of those of us who work for others is to side with the little guy in every case, which makes accurate reportage of these things that much more difficult. (Think about it: in the Air Pirates vs. Disney lawsuit, how many articles did you read that favored Disney? Yet, in my opinion, Disney was totally right -- I'm all for total protection of character copyrights and trademarks -- and O'Neill and pals deserved to be stopped. The knee-jerk reaction was to deify the Air Pirates and to villainize Disney, in reporting that was supposed to be straight news. I'm not singling TCJ out on this, because I don't know if that's how they reported it, but it is characteristic of the methods used whenever something like this arises.) Certainly, the battles are interesting to some, and I've no doubt they're going to continue for as long as comics last, but we choose to restrict their exposure to the lettercol and interviews, where it's quite clear that it's one person's opinion. Then it's far clearer to see who's whining and who's been victimized.

My reply to Kim's letter was perhaps overly affected by the rest of Kim's letter, which was not for publication, and I regret it. Also, Marilyn Bethke did write us soon after our comment on her TCR review appeared. For reasons that had to do only with the availability of time and space (there was something like a five month gap between the review and the first time we had room for a lettercol of any length -- which would have been required to answer her), I chose not to print it since it was old news by then and we had changed TCR since the review. Believe me, Bethke is lacking in anything BUT guts. MT]

MR. BILL, 10885 Parkdale Avenue, San Diego, CA 92128:
Hey Mr. Hands:

On page 19 of TCR #175 it says that AFTA #14 will be out soon! I, I never saw #4-13! My collection! My collection! Oh no, oh no, oh noooooo.

I think I'm going to have a heart attack! Ooooooohhhhhhhhhh...

[It must be true. That item was reported by your old friend, Mr. Sluggo! MH]

DANA A. SNOW, 7356 Beverly Blvd. #3, Los Angeles, CA 90036: This is one letter I have minimized my procrastination on. Last Friday I received a large group of back issue TCRs filling in the gap in my collection of my subscribing days.

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

What fun it was to read all those STAR HAWKS serials (and interestingly different because I had bought the Bullet Crow cover issue at a newsstand so I knew where things were headed). I liked the Isaac Asimov caricature as that master scientist particularly, though he only looked A LOT like Asimov in the first two drawings of him...

I'm also enjoying reading the Cat Yronwode SPIRIT articles (I'm 1 1/2 pages into the second one now) and the FANDOM CONFIDENTIALs have been hi-larious!

There have been some funnies and some duds in BULLET CROW, with its fascinating drawing style... DICK DUCK has a nifty drawing style too, though both strips would benefit from a de-emphasis on punchlines and more emphasis on legitimate adventure stories with jokes in them, even if we end up with more continued stories or more incomplete adventures. Sergio Armadillo (aka Aragones) and Barry Armadillo (aka Manilow) are nice touches...

And I find PALS quite pleasant in a dada/innocent way, though I think the exploration of it might be on symbols and behaviors of friendship and anger and I wonder if you're going to keep it as naive as the "Only kidding of course" one.

HOW DO THEY DO IT? is a fun style of legitimate analysis that I associate with the Baker Street Irregulars, yet not out of hand, as these are legitimate questions...

My favorite HI AND SY is on page 14 of #173. The others seem poor imitations of that one. The explanation that it is translated from another language seems ABSURD to me. I think it's by Jim Engel.

Again, thank you for sending them. I figure it's only proper that if you complain when things are wrong, you have an obligation to praise when things are right. Thanks again.

[I'm glad to see that somebody besides me enjoys the STAR HAWKS serials in large enough chunks to get into easily. When we were publishing the GAZETTE a common complaint that a week's dose of anything wasn't enough; when we put out a large amount of SH, we got the opposite complaint.

I'm sure Chuck and Jim appreciate the kind words about their work, and we'd all like to hear from more readers on the subject of whether they should do more continued stories and less one-off jokes. Thanks. MT]

## TCR Message

WANTED: REPORTER FOR TCR

Because of geographical location, David Finger will be giving up the position of primary news gatherer for TCR next spring. We are currently looking for a replacement. Qualifications: You must have a better than average knowledge of the current comic books and the people making them; we would prefer that you live in or around New York City; you must be able to phone New York offices and professionals to acquire news; and you should be over 18. Requirements for the job include monthly visits to the offices of DC, Marvel, Warren, Harvey and Archie, gathering of news and coming comics information, and additional news updates. Time needed: three or four days per month, week days. If you believe that you can do the job, write us stating your qualifications at: JOB, Street Enterprises, P.O. Box 255, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051. Please include your phone number. (Yes, there is a salary.)

## Fanzine Checklist

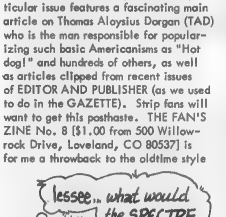
This will be a round-up of accumulated fanzines over the past half a year and I've attempted to group them according to content. Because of space and time (both of which are always short around here), I can only mention the magazines that I feel will have appeal beyond the immediate family of the publishers, so keep that in mind when you send this column two copies of your fanzine.

Most prevalent are the amateur comic book zines, and they happen to have some of the best material to offer. ANDROMEDA No. 6 [$1.60 from Silver Snail Comics Ltd., 323 Queen St. W., Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M5V 2A9] is an excellent issue, as usual, devoted to stories written by Alan Dean Foster. The art is by Tom Nesbitt, Peter Hsu, Paul Rivoche and Don Marshall, with a contents page by Ken Steacy, and covers by Nesbitt and Hsu. Recommended, as usual. THE ENFORCERS No. 3 [$1.75 from Graphics 2000, 3466 S. Sycamore Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90016] is another professional quali-

ty magazine from Larry Houston. A collaborative effort between Houston, Gar Haywood, Willie Blyberg and Sam de la Rosa, the aim here is to corral the followers of the X-MEN and AVENGERS, with its Marvel-like dialogue, characters and battling. Also included is a short story featuring an engaging character called Micro-Man. Still a little too breakneck paced for my taste, I still believe you'll find it worth your time. CEREBUS No. 11 [Inquire as to price from Aardvark-Vanaheim Press, 221 Queen St. S. #1401, Kitchener, Ontario CANADA N2G 1W5] is an aardvark who parallels a barbarian hero currently being published by a large comics group -- but it's far more than satire. Dave Sim is the writer/artist of the series (which is published bimonthly in black and white, 24 pages) and if the rest of the series is like this one, they're intelligently hilarious excursions into the more absurd situations barbarian characters get into. Cerebus is out for himself (and he's also characteristically schizophrenic, referring to himself at all times in the third person) and everything is slightly out of kilter. Sim's artwork is great. Recommended. NIGHT MUSIC [$5.70 for the regular version, or $9.70 for the signed and numbered limited edition of 100 from Eclipse Enterprises, 81 Delaware Street, Staten Island, NY 10304] is a beautifully printed softcover book written and illustrated by P. Craig Russell which is breathtakingly well-drawn. Two stories are included, one a science fiction tale, with lettering by Tom Orzechowski, the other a fantasy dream sequence sans balloons, and they're both beautifully done. Recommended.

Some other strip-zines are of more eclectic tastes. THE POWER MASTERS No. 8 [90¢ from Steve Lightle, 8709 West 70th Terrace, Shawnee Mission, KS 66204] is a sixteen page adventure of a group of super-characters that is beautifully drawn which suffers only from its small size. It's regularly published and a six-issue sub costs $4.50. CAPTIVE CHAINS[$1.50 from SST Publications, P.O. Box 1, Lawndale, CA 90260] is really interesting stuff if you can get past the strange artwork and the rather bizarre subject matter Raymond Ginn provides (no super-heroes, but a lot of violence) in offbeat morality tales. HUZZAH! [$1.00 from Steve Gallacci and Jeff Killian, 2352 S. Osage, Wichita, KS 67213] is a collection of humorous strips with clearly structured artwork, if not entirely successful. Steven Gallaci's stuff has great promise. And A-Z COMICS [75¢ or three for $2.00, Rodgers Books, P.O. Box 896, Dover, NJ 07801] is another interesting collection of strips (26 strips titled one per letter) by Walter Rodgers, which is almost poetic, only failing a bit in the art.

Among the fanzines that contain more articles than art, PANELS [$3.00 from John Benson, 205 W. 80th Street, #2E, New York, NY 10024] is a standout, with its excellent interviews with Will Eisner and Jules Feiffer, even though the former is now seven years old. (It's still entirely relevant.) CARTONAGGIO No. 7 [75¢ or four for $2.50 from P.O. Box 474, MSU, Wichita Falls, TX 76308] is another newly begun regular publication devoted entirely to the appreciation of comic strips (STRIP SCENE is the other) and is well worth the small price. This particular issue features a fascinating main article on Thomas Aloysius Dorgan (TAD) who is the man responsible for popularizing such basic Americanisms as "Hot dog!" and hundreds of others, as well as articles clipped from recent issues of EDITOR AND PUBLISHER (as we used to do in the GAZETTE). Strip fans will want to get this posthaste. THE FAN'S ZINE No. 8 [$1.00 from 500 Willowrock Drive, Loveland, CO 80537] is for me a throwback to the oldtime style




of fanzines, a rather quaint amalgam of feature articles about characters, a surfacy interview with George Perez, and some opinion columns. This is what fandom's output used to look like, if you'd like to know. LOLLAPALOOSA No. 3 [$2.30 from Mitch O'Connell, 5453 N. Lakewood, Chicago, IL 60640] is chiefly a portfolio of sketches and artwork by O'Connell, Neal Adams, Howie Chaykin, Barry Smith, Jim Starlin and Berni Wrightson (and indexes of those artists) plus 25 others, although two strips (one featuring BATMAN) by O'Connell and an article on the connection of juvenile delinquency and EC Comics are also included to add variety. GRATIS No. 4[$1.25 for postage for four issues, Gratis Publications, 36 Ivy Green Cres., Scarborough, Ontario CANADA M1G 2Z3] spotlights an interview with Neal Adams in perhaps the most reasonably-priced fanzine ever made (it's free). FAD No. 2 & 3 [$1.35 from Ward O. Batty, 944 Austin Avenue NE, Atlanta, GA 30307] has as its main feature an interview with Berni Wrightson, which is a bit marred by the errors in transcription, and a standard fare of commentary and criticism. But I can recommend wholeheartedly the 41st issue of PITTSBURGH FAN FORUM, the program book for the '79 Pittcon [$2.40 from Ben Pondexter, 827 Anaheim Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219], which, aside from the regular columns on the DICK TRACY comic book series, lettercol, reviews and other departments, brief biographies and pictures of the con's guests, a gallery of fan art, and articles by Marv Wolfman and Bill G. Wilson on their early days in fandom, and an article on Fred Hembeck that not only features some of Fred's "serious-style" work but an actual PHOTO of Fred. [And by the way, guys, it took a few more than one vote to get you on Alley Award even with last year's small turnout.]

A couple of unclassifiable people are Richard Bruning [409 S. Livingston, Madison, WI 53703] whose MARVELOUS FRUITS AND VEGGIES Portfolio of four five x five-o-half " drawings in an illustrated cover ($1.25 each or $2.50 if you'd like a set hand-colored) features drawings of the Marvel superheroes as various (what else?) fruits and vegetables; and Tom Foster (P.O. Box 154, Crawfordsville, AR 72327] whose drawings of funny-animal-type reptiles are available in four configurations: a portfolio (COSMIC STRAWBERRIES, $3.50), coloring book ($1.00), twelve oversize postcards (ROCK 'N' ROLL REPTILES, $1.50) or twelve oversize postcards on colored stock (INTERPLANETARY CRAZY ANIMAL SCIENCE FRICTION POST CARDS, $2.50), all really good cartoons.

Fan fiction is a longstanding tradition, even amongst the supposedly illiterate people who make up comic fandom. Those of you who remember TRUE F.A.T. (Fan Adventure Theatre) will recall Dwight Decker; well Dwight is still around and has recently published STARJACK, THE STORY OF A BOY AND HIS TELESCOPE [$1.50 from Dwight at 16 King Arthur Court #7, Northlake, IL 60164] which is concerned with fictional fans, and STJERNEBORG No. 1 ($1.25) which is science fiction by Decker. There's a lot of "in" jokes that those not too familiar with fandom might not get, but there's still fun to be had. Another regular fan fiction source is Gordon Linzner's SPACE AND TIME (up to #53 as of October and published quarterly, $2.00 or four for $6.00 from Linzner at 138 West 70th Street, Apt. 4-B, New York, NY 10023) which is generally science fiction and fantasy in subject matter. Since each issue has from seven to nine authors in its sixty pages, each issue is a new experience. Worth supporting.

TCR doesn't delve into the world of paperbacks much, but FANTASY NEWSLETTER [$5.00 per year or 12

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the artist, the philosopher..."*

P. Craig Russell's

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*From the Introduction by STERANKO

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issues from Paul Allen, 1015 West 36th Street, Loveland, CO 80537] does, and they do it well. Each twelve page issue features loads of cover reproductions and coverage of fantasy, science fiction and adventure titles from over twenty paperback publishers. FANTASY MEDIA [$11.00 for five issues from 113A High Street, Whitstable, Kent, ENGLAND CT5 1AY] does the same thing for Britain, as well as comprehensive news on fantasy/sf films and magazines. And BEM [$2.00 from Martin Lock, 3 Marlow Court, Britannia Square, Worcester, ENGLAND WR1 3DP] is the heir apparent to Richard Burton's COMIC MEDIA NEWS, reprinting TCR news as well as publishing their own news and interviews, comic strips and an extremely tempestuous lettercol. Worth going to the post office for the international money order.

– Mike Tiefenbacher

## Comic Strip Circus

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE has returned to telling new adventures of the plucky girl and her friends. After a year of trying to find the best way to cash in on the success of the hit Broadway play (called ANNIE, which is now the name the strip goes under) and have new stories, the Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate has finally found the format and settled on who should do it. Leonard Starr is the new writer-artist on the strip. He draws the strip in a livelier version of Harold Gray's style and writes modern stories which reflect today's world and move at a fast pace.

The official starting date of Leonard Starr's ANNIE was Sunday, December 9th. That's the date new-client papers added the strip, including the Chicago TRIBUNE and the Milwaukee JOURNAL. The TRIBUNE, Harold Gray's home paper, hadn't carried ANNIE or Starr's ON STAGE the last few years, but began running the strip with the new adventure featuring Daddy Warbucks' new energy source gangster-kidnappers who want it. However, papers that had been running the strip before the 9th first saw Starr's version on December 3rd with the strip shown on this page. Since Annie had been in the midst of a Harold Gray adventure, Starr used the preview week to wrap it up and lead into the new story.

In order to take over ANNIE, Starr killed his no-longer hit strip ON STAGE, even though it was still successful enough to continue. The last ON STAGE appeared September 9th. Apparently, he felt that he could have a greater success with Gray's unkillable orphan. Also, Starr stated that today's shrinking comic strip reproduction has made the kind of realistic artwork featured in ON STAGE unreproducible in a size it could be appreciated. The cartoonist has announced his intentions to make political statements of his own. While his politics are not as far in the right wing as Harold Gray's, they are definitely to the right of Garry Trudeau's. Presumably, Starr will not fall into the trap of doing a campy treatment like Elliot Caplin and his successors, but will offer the suspense and involving human drama that he is a master of. We can expect ANNIE to be a big hit again.

Marvel Comics has come up with a new wrinkle in newspaper comics. They are going to start a comic book insert. No SPIRIT Section, this twenty-page comic (including covers) will appear quarterly beginning April 30, 1980. Distributed by Marvel, not only will the comic not cost papers money, they'll be paid to carry it like any advertising insert. Marvel will make their money from advertisers who pay to run ads in the comic. There will only be seven or eight pages of comics, plus the cover, with the other twelve pages devoted to advertising.

Marvel tested the idea with a comic insert in the Columbus DISPATCH on August 26th quite successfully. Marvel will only distribute the section to eight large metropolitan dailies at the moment: the Chicago TRIBUNE, Dallas TIMES-HERALD, Detroit NEWS, Houston CHRONICLE, Los Angeles HERALD EXAMINER, New York NEWS, Philadelphia INQUIRER, and the Washington POST. Marvel hopes to go weekly by 1981. (One wonders whether there will be any conflict with their daily strips, as, for instance, in Washington where the STAR carries THE INCREDIBLE HULK.)

Big changes in two strips over at King Features: First, Al Williamson and Archie Goodwin are leaving SECRET AGENT CORRIGAN, according to the COMICS JOURNAL, who still haven't paid me for their title. The reason given by Williamson and Goodwin for leaving the strip is that since it isn't in many papers it doesn't pay them enough. Of course, this was always the case since they first started working on the strip. More likely, Goodwin finds the load of CORRIGAN, TARZAN and STAR HAWKS on top of his Marvel work just too much. And Williamson probably wants to move on to new experiences, even though this strip was originally done by his idol, Alex Raymond.

The last strip by Williamson and Goodwin will appear in February, 1980. Their first appeared back in January of 1967. Reportedly, the syndicate is looking for replacements for the team, though it's possible, with the small number of papers carrying it, that King will kill X-9.

Meanwhile, Williamson's next assignment will be to draw Marvel's comic book version of THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK, adapted by Goodwin. Interestingly, this was the team that was supposed to do the STAR WARS comic strip back in 1978, but negotiations between Lucas and the syndicate broke down, and when the strip finally appeared in 1979, Russ Manning was doing it.

Harold R. Foster is retiring from PRINCE VALIANT. After 43 years of chronicling the adventures of the Viking Prince, Foster has decided age 87 is time to lay down the sword.

Everyone reading this probably knows the tale of Hal Foster, one-time Canadian prize-fighter, who traveled from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Chicago by bicycle to study art; how he became a successful illustrator and was asked to draw the new TARZAN daily strip in 1928, but by the time the strip finally appeared on January 7, 1929 and was a success, Foster was no longer available to work on it, so Rex Maxon was hired to draw it; and how Foster returned to TARZAN to take over the Sunday page from the overworked Maxon on September 27, 1931, revolutionizing the comic art world by bringing high quality illustration to newspaper comics. Earlier story strips had been done in either a semi-cartoonish style or by cartoonists who couldn't get the principles of realistic art down pat.

After five-and-a-half years of doing TARZAN, Foster decided he wanted his own strip. He created PRINCE VALIANT, which first appeared on February 13, 1937, and for months it competed with Foster's TARZAN, since his last page of the apeman appeared May 2, 1937. Interestingly, Foster had suggested doing VALIANT to United Feature Syndicate (who syndicated TARZAN) in 1934, but they turned him down. He had to wait until 1936 to sell it to King Features. Though VALIANT was soon a big hit, it never appeared as a daily. Foster wanted the extra time to concentrate on his beautiful detailed

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art, which soon surpassed anything he'd done in TARZAN for grandeur and experimentation in layout.

VALIANT's success was noticed in Hollywood. While it had to wait until 1954 to be made, the PRINCE VALIANT film was a multi-million dollar epic with an all-star cast headed by Robert Wagner as Val and Janet Leigh as Aleta. One of the very first films made in Cinemascope, it was the biggest film adaptation of a comic strip until SUPERMAN

THE MOVIE. However, apparently it wasn't as big a hit as SUPERMAN, for the announced sequel, VALIANT AND ALETA, was never made.

Hal Foster has been given many awards. What not many know about the man is that he, and not King, owned PRINCE VALIANT, something quite unusual even today. Originally, Foster intended to retire VALIANT with him. However, he was convinced not to, and sold PRINCE VALIANT to the syndicate. John Cullen Murphy, who's been drawing the page from Foster's script and layouts since 1971, will finally get to sign the feature. The final Foster byline will appear February 10, 1980. The following week VALIANT will be signed "By John Cullen Murphy." Who will write the comic strip is not known. It's the end of an era. Let's hope the new era will be a good one for PRINCE VALIANT.

When DOONESBURY went over to the Washington STAR from the POST in June, POST editor Ben Bradlee ordered reporter Henry Allen, who's 38, and 22-year-old cartoonist Hatley Norton Mason III to come up with a new satirical strip for the POST. The result was DUPONT CIRCLE, which began in the POST on September 10th. On December 3rd, syndication of the strip by the Washington Post Writers Group began. Only time will tell whether DUPONT CIRCLE will give any real competition in the political satire arena. Shown is the October 30th strip.

Al Stoffel and Roger Armstrong are no longer writing and drawing BUGS BUNNY. The writer and artist are unsigned, but the drawing is obviously by Lee Holley, who draws BUGS BUNNY and other Warner Bros. characters in LOONEY TUNES for Gold Key. Holley continues doing his daily panel and Sunday comic PONYTAIL. The storyline of BUGS has also changed from the Bugs' Diner-type gags of recent years to a wilder humor more reminiscent of the cartoons. And more cartoon characters, like the Martian from DUCK DODGERS featured in the current GREAT AMERICAN CHASE (The BUGS BUNNY/ROAD RUNNER movie) are appearing in the strip. Now if they'll have the intelligence to have Daffy Duck in the strip...

In another change of strip personnel, Jim Burns is out as artist of MODESTY BLAISE. The artist who drew THE SEEKERS, whom many fans felt to be the logical successor to Jim Holdaway, did not meet with universal approval. The London EVENING STANDARD had an article explaining that Burns had been dropped because MODESTY BLAISE readers had complained about his artwork. The STANDARD actually apologized to readers for having hired Burns. The new artist illustrating Peter O'Donnell's scripts was not identified, nor does he sign the strip.

KNOBS, listed as CHANNEL ONE in the July EDITOR & PUBLISHER Syndicate Directory, is by George Breisacher, whose first strip, BOONDOCK, ran in the Menominee Falls GUARDIAN #65-146. This is the December 3rd strip.

STAR TREK has finally trekked its way onto the comics pages. On Sunday, December 2nd, the Enterprise's crew began a series of newspaper adventures syndicated by the L.A. Times Syndicate, who also syndicate STAR WARS. The debut of this strip was delayed almost as long as the debut of STAR TREK -- THE MOTION PICTURE, which also debuted that week.

In 1978, Mandala Productions, which had quite some success with their STAR TREK Fotonovels, decided to do a comic strip based on the adventures of Kirk and co. using their Fotonovel technique. However, experimentation showed that newspaper photo reproduction at current newspaper strip size is not good, so they found commercial artist Thomas Warkentin and got him to draw the strip. A contract with the L.A. Times Syndicate and the strip was supposed to debut in early '79. Something happened along the way. Whether newspapers were reluctant to take on STAR TREK, whether they were waiting to take maximum advantage of the debut of the new film, or whether the syndicate wanted to wait so not as to compete with the debut of their own STAR WARS, I don't know. Now that the big movie is out with all the publicity, the time is right for the strip. Since the movie has already set a new record for the most money, $11.9 million, taken in over the first three days, (upsetting the $10 million record set by SUPERMAN), it looks fairly certain to be a big hit, and the list of papers carrying the strip will probably grow. Below is the December 4th strip.

R.S. Helm, new writer of the current STAR WARS sequence, is really Roy Thomas.

Did you know that before they decided on Leonard Starr's approach to LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE, the Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate wanted to have the strip feature the adventures of a grownup Annie as a reporter for the Washington POST? Despite the dumping of this concept, the POST picked up ANNIE.

# BULLET CROW by CHUCK FIALA

★ ★ ★ FOWL OF FORTUNE

011

BULLET CROW JUST HIRED A SECRETARY. UNFORTUNATELY, SHE GOT A LITTLE CONFUSED AND THINKS HE IS A DIFFERENT COMIC STRIP CHARACTER, NAMELY DICK DUCK, DUCK DICK!

LET THE FUN BEGIN!

SAY, BONNIE BUNNY, THAT'S GREAT! YOU ALREADY GOT THRU THAT GIGANTIC PILE OF MAIL?

OH, IT WAS EASY NONE OF IT WAS FOR YOU!

SO, I JUST THREW IT OUT... ...INTO THE GARBAGE DISPOSAL, WHERE IT WAS GROUND TO SMALL BITS!

AND WHO, PRAY TELL WERE THEY FOR?

OH, NOBODY! JUST SOME GOON NAMED BULLET CROW! HE MUST BE A REAL SIMP!

I CAN'T IMAGINE ANYONE WITH A NAME LIKE THAT!

...BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT HAS A NICE RING TO IT?

OH, NO.

BULLET CROW! SAY IT! WATCH AS IT ROLLS NICELY OFF THE LOWER LIP! NOW YOU LIKE IT? HMMM?

FORGET IT, DICK! I'D RATHER SAY YOUR NAME.

BUT IT IS MY NAME! I'M NOT DICK DUCK, DUCK DICK! MY NAME IS BULLET CROW!

AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE!

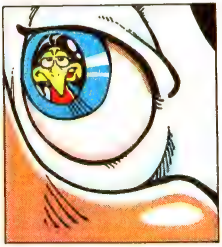
UPSET BECAUSE OF HER FAUX-PAS.

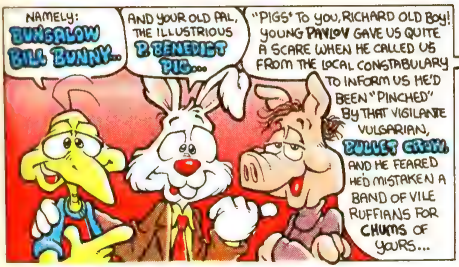
© 1979 CHUCK FIALA

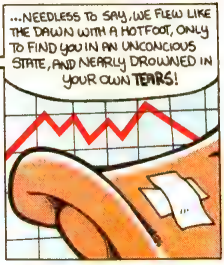
# DICK DUCK, DUCK DICK

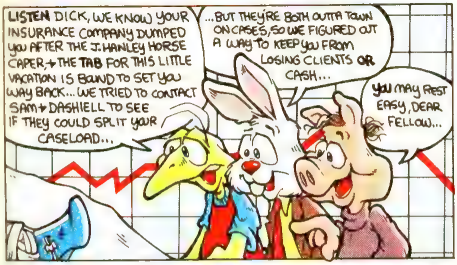
by Jim Engel

FOLLOWING THE THRILL-PACKED ICE-CREAM OFFICE PARTY, DICK RECEIVES MORE GUESTS—IN THE HOSPITAL...





In the beginning there were the Fantastic Four, the Hulk and Spider-Man. Each was, in their way, an original... and for those of us who began reading Marvel Comics back in those days, the early issues of those books are still the most memorable.

I don't know how memorable the earliest issues of MACHINE MAN will be in ten years -- there's no way for me to erase the effect of reading over ten thousand comics and taking it from where I was when I read those early Marvel issues -- but it certainly seems to me that had MACHINE MAN appeared in 1963 it would still be around today and it would probably be widely followed (and almost as hackneyed as the current versions of the abovementioned comics that did begin that far back). As a 1978-born comic, though, it has its problems, not the least of which is the kneejerk reaction of people like me who are overly dependent on the past work of the people involved.

I loved Jack Kirby's artwork for Marvel, at least up to the point where the page reduction of comics switched from twice-up to one-and-a-half-up, and things got a little too much surface detail for my taste. (His technique and scale never changed, but the panels got smaller.) However, when he went to DC he began scripting his own plotting, and I've been less than impressed with Kirby's work since. Kirby's ear for vernacular and jargon is faulty, and to me, characters like Mr. Miracle and the New Gods spoke in patterns not unlike advertising men. He improved somewhat by the time he had left DC for Marvel, but one issue of Kirby's CAPTAIN AMERICA was all I needed to reaffirm my earlier opinion, and I bypassed reading either BLACK PANTHER or 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY. When I chose to review MACHINE MAN, I decided to begin with 2001: since the strip began in that title. Except for the "Norton of New York" sequence, I was bored to the point of dread of having to read another twelve Kirby-scripted issues. Hamstrung by a concept vaguely relating to the movie, Kirby was going nowhere, when -- lo and behold, somebody decided to begin a continuing character.

Despite the title it began in, Machine Man is not set in the future. And, unlike other Marvel characters, he doesn't operate out of New York (unless someone decides that Central City is but another name for NYC). The final edition of the X-series of robots with thinking brains, X-51 was the only one not to go crazy from the identity crisis created in a robot brain with human feelings -- probably because Abel Stack took him into his home and treated him as his son. When all robots in the series were ordered destroyed, X-51, now known as Aaron Stack, was saved by his "father" removing the bomb from his body and sending him off, allowing himself to be killed in the explosion. With human feelings and a government order to be destroyed, the being known originally as Mister Machine, and then, (because that name was a trademark of a toy company) Machine Man attempted to melt into the background of society.

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The formula for the book is basic, and not that original. What Kirby did with the book in its first nine issues, though, was set up one of the few characters with a sympathetic personality in a growing situation. Originally hounded by an army colonel named Kragg who had lost men and one eye to the other robots in the X-series, Kragg became aware of his blind hatred and the value of Machine Man by the final Kirby issue. Of course, by that time, another nemesis (Congressman Brickman) had appeared, but it showed that the formulaic sameness Kirby had restricted himself to in other self-styled titles was beginning to break down. Kragg would not become MM's Thunderbolt Ross.

And Machine Man's character was not going to be a dull repeat of either The Vision (detached and superior) or the Red Tornado (unconfidant and self-pitying). Machine Man was to be a "well adjusted and rational individual" (as MM himself put it when he met his confidant, psychiatrist Peter Spaulding) whose problem was only one of being accepted as a human. Not above questioning himself, MM never reverted to the "logic-happy" persona other machine-characters hav been given, and he actually showed wit. He went through a period when he questioned whether he should help humanity when it hounded him, but it was short-lived after he observed a few ordinary people. This comic w not gonna be a downer.

And Machine Man himself struck a heroic chord reminiscent of the old Marvel (notably Reed Richards' penchant for having invented the exact, perfect weapon for every instance, otherwise known as the "Green Arrow Syndrome"), coming up with some ne wrinkle in his powers nearly every issue. It isn't every guy who can tur his feet into a skateboard, or turn his eyes into binoculars, telescope his arms and legs, et al. But, unlike someone like Mister Miracle, all the inventions and abilities wrought were really not improbable, and weren't pulled out of thin air to get out of a predicament. Even the ability to fly (MM negated the "Gravity Equation" is done appealingly.

In late 1978, Jack Kirby's fina MACHINE MAN appeared as Jack went into animation again, and the character was kept alive by Roger S in three issues of THE INCREDIBLE HULK. Aside from adding the abili to read minds (which MM does to th Hulk), Stern kept the character wit the parameters of Kirby's vision. T Hulk did damage Machine Man whi meant he was in need of repair whe Marv Wolfman and Steve Ditko bro him back a few months later.

Basically, Marv must have bee the opinion that there should be a l to Machine Man's abilities, becau the first thing he did was to elimin such things as his laser and flame th ing capabilities (from his Hand Wea System) and describe what he could

I have no basic quarrel with this except that part of the appeal of the character had to do with how his parts might be rearranged or altered to fit a specific situation.

And Marv shrunk the size of MM's cases so Aaron Stack could take a job. With Peter Spaulding's help, Stack has teamed up as an insurance investigator for Delmar Insurance. Thus far, that part of his existance hasn't been looked into too much, though two rather unfortunate stereotypes answering to Maggie James and Eddie White have shown up a couple of times.

Steve Ditko, of course, brings back a lot of the old Marvel flavor, as his style seems to be eternally set in the early '60s (style of clothes, hair, etc.), and he seems to be doing his best work on this book (yards better than his Charlton-era stuff, and better because he inks it himself than the new STARMAN strip for DC. Steve's version of Machine Man is less hulky and more streamlined than Kirby's, of course, and Steve has jettisoned a lot of excess decoration. Visually, the only particularly unappealing part is the coloring of MM's costume, which is red-violet with light blue trim. I wouldn't want to dump the purple, since there aren't that many characters who use it, but the steel-blue doesn't add much to the attractiveness of the character.

Marv's plots on the four issues since Kirby have been uniformly tight, well-paced, and suspenseful.

Unfortunately, Marv seems to have confused MM with Silver Surfer (e.g., #12), with some unappealing "woe is humanity, let them suffer, I don't need them" attitudes, and some uncharacteristic phraseology("living amongst you humans")by a person who believes himself to BE human. The confidence in himself and his heritage from his "father" of humanity, both hinted at at times, are erratically used. And #12 is far preachier than Kirby ever got with the series (although Kirby managed to do it in the 2001 issues without Machine Man), and too preachy to be entertaining.

Anyway, #14 will be Marv's final issue, with Tom DeFalco taking over the scripting. The character has the potential to be good, solid entertainment for a long time -- if the aspects of the character that make him appealing are retained. Let's hope that they are.

- Mike Tiefenbacher

SHORT: Heavy Metal Publications version of the film 1941 has appeared. Steve Bissette and Tom Veitch did the artwork and Alan Asherman scripted. If the book is meant to prompt people to see the film, it's a failure; if it was meant as a comic book, it's a failure; if it's meant as a souvenir of the movie, why's it on sale now, before the film's premiere? Bissette and Veitch may be fine artists (it's really hard to tell with all the advertising clips from old LIFE magazines pasted over everything), but you can't tell by this. And, let us hope that the script of the film isn't as awful as the storytelling here. Save your money.

MT

## Et Al

New officers were elected for the Comics Magazine Association of America in December, and John L. Goldwater, President of the Association for the last twenty-five years and the only president they've had, was named Chairman of the Board. Sol Harrison of DC was named new President, with Leon Harvey of Harvey named Vice President and Treasurer, and Stan Lee named Vice President and Secretary. The Board of Directors consists of Goldwater, Harrison, Harvey, William Preye from CBS-Fawcett, Richard O'-Hagen from Curtis Circulation, Frank Herrera from Independent News, Gene Ford from Publishers Distributing, Dan Curran from Chemical Color Plate, and James Broderick from World Color Press.

Pacific Comics and Schanes and Schanes portfolios for 1980 will include collections of work by Val Mayerik, Richard Hescox, John Pound, Josh Kirby, Wendy Pini and Frank Cirocco, among others. The PORTFOLIO OF UNDERGROUND ART (described last issue) will feature ten plates, retail for $30.00 and will be limited to 1200 copies. Their address is P.O. Box 99217, San Diego, CA 92109.

Frank Thorne has broken through at last, and will begin a new comic strip for PLAYBOY beginning in the April, 1980 issue. Titled MOONSHINE McJUGS, it will be a satirical hillbilly strip with adult humor. Watch for the photo promos too; they feature some people we all know. The GHITA graphic novel will also be published in early 1980, the first novel of the series.

STARTING IN
**PLAYBOY**
APRIL, 1980 ISSUE

GALILEO MAGAZINE will be reprinting the Jack Kirby BLACK HOLE comic strip in serial form beginning in January, as well as two science fiction comic strips done for the magazine by Leo Giroux, Jr.: THE ROAD OF WORLDS, drawn by Chuck Patton, and SPICY THIRD REICH TALES, drawn by Russ Kimball under the pseudonym Arcana.

Marv Wolfman, Ross Andru and Mike Esposito's THE UNEXPLAINED comic strip has yet to debut as the Copley News Syndicate dropped its option. They're currently looking for another deal.

Gil Kane and two writers have paperbacks coming out in January and February. The original material Kane-Ron Goulart volume of STAR HAWKS will appear in January from Playboy Paperbacks; and Kane and John Jakes have collaborated on a paperback called EXCALIBUR for Dell (price $2.50), out in February. We don't know if that's a comic book or if Gil just illustrated it.

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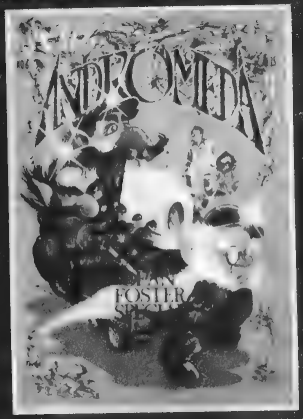


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# MODESTY BLAISE
## by Peter O'Donnell & Enrique Romero

# The Menomonee Falls Gazette

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Learn how systematic criminal activity is syphoning hundreds of thousands of dollars away from the comics industry at the very point in history when the comic companies desperately need every dollar they can lay their hands on. Maybe you thought comic books cost 10¢ each these days because of increased printing and production costs. Well, think again...and read this startling expose to learn the real facts. Learn how the underworld system works, how and where the money goes, exactly how dangerous this unknowns original activity is to the very future of the comic book form itself. This is the single most important fan article of the year. You can not afford to miss it.

## THE BLACK KNIGHT

An in-depth look at one of Marvel's most unusual comic creations. This article traces the Black Knight thru the pages of his own comic book during the mid fifties, looking at his plots, his background development, his characterization, his art, and traces his growth thru the days as a virtual non-entity in the early Marvel universe, exploring his growing importance and his pivotal influence in the twelve issue Defenders-Avengers-Loki-Dormammu battle. This is a complete, exhaustive examination of one of Marvel's more unusual creations. Artwork, including a full color cover, has been provided by Rich Moollins.

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An exclusive feature of inside fact and fast breaking news about upcoming events in the comics industry and the people who make them happen. This feature carries news and information we guarantee you will not find reported in any other fan publication.

## ROMANCE COMICS — The Forgotten Genre

Mark Carlson has provided the first complete examination ever undertaken of the romance comics field. Mark takes a sharp and sometimes humorous examination of a segment of the comics industry which has amassed hundreds of different titles over the years, yet has remained virtually unknown to most serious comic collectors. This article delves into story types, the history of the form, traces the development of features and changing sensility, including looks at the publishing efforts of Fox, Avon, St. John and Marvel in this field. The social impact of the form and the development of interlocking story stereotypes is covered in detail. This is an important, informative article that covers completely a subject matter never touched on before.

## THE COMIC READER Top 100 Poll — *How accurate is it?*

In recent Warren magazines Joe Brancatelli took THE COMIC READER and its top 100 poll to task because the Warren magazines placed so poorly on it. How right or how wrong was his criticism, and just how accurate is the poll about the other comic titles? You'll find the answers in COMIC WORLD, along with a piercing commentary on Joe Brancatelli and his attitudes toward fandom.

## Plus —

Jy Silber looks at the U.F.O. and its impact on fandom, an extra long letter section including comments and opinions from top children-zine and current comic pros, and much, much more.

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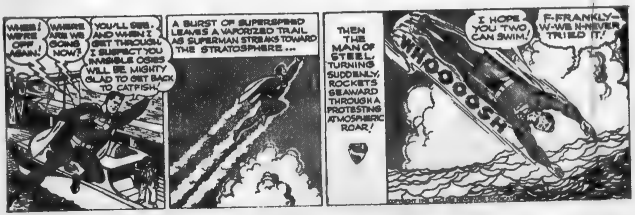

# THE SEEKERS
## by John Burns and Les Lilley

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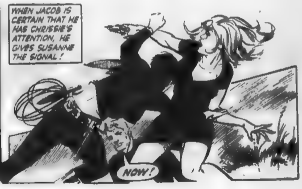

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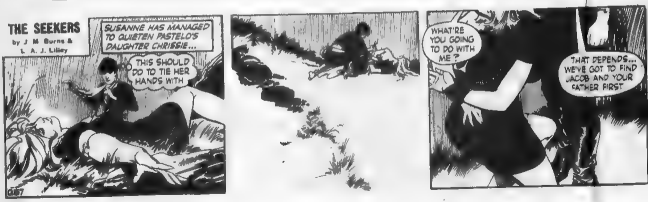

# ST Pocket Checklist

## January 1980

## DC

- ☐ ACTION COMICS #506
- ☐ ADVENTURE COMICS #470
- ☐ BATMAN #322
- ☐ THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD #161
- ☐ DC COMICS PRESENTS #20
- ☐ DETECTIVE COMICS #489
- ☐ THE FLASH #284
- ☐ GHOSTS #87
- ☐ G.I. COMBAT #219
- ☐ GREEN LANTERN #127
- ☐ HOUSE OF MYSTERY #279
- ☐ JONAH HEX #35
- ☐ JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #177
- ☐ LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #262
- ☐ THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERBOY #4
- ☐ SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE #23
- ☐ SGT. ROCK #339
- ☐ SUPER FRIENDS #31
- ☐ SUPERMAN #346
- ☐ TIME WARP #4
- ☐ THE UNEXPECTED #197
- ☐ UNKNOWN SOLDIER #238
- ☐ WARLORD #32
- ☐ WEIRD WAR TALES #86
- ☐ WEIRD WESTERN TALES #66
- ☐ WONDER WOMAN #266
- ☐ WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #262

## Nat. Lampoon

- ☐ HEAVY METAL #35 [V3#9]
- ☐ NATIONAL LAMPOON #119 [V2#18]

## Marvel

- ☐ AMAZING ADVENTURES #5
- ☐ THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #203
- ☐ THE AVENGERS #194
- ☐ BATTLESTAR GALACTICA #14
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #244
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #109
- ☐ CRAZY #60
- ☐ THE DEFENDERS #82
- ☐ DOCTOR STRANGE #40
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #217
- ☐ FANTASY MASTERPIECES #5
- ☐ FUN AND GAMES MAGAZINE #8
- ☐ GHOST RIDER #43
- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK #246
- ☐ IRON MAN #133
- ☐ MACHINE MAN #14
- ☐ MARVEL PREMIERE #53 [Black Panther]
- ☐ MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #87
- ☐ MARVEL SUPER ACTION #18
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #114
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #92
- ☐ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE # 62
- ☐ MASTER OF KUNG FU #87
- ☐ THE MICRONAUTS #16
- ☐ POWER MAN #62
- ☐ ROM #5
- ☐ THE SAVAGE SHE-HULK #3
- ☐ THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #50
- ☐ SGT. FURY #157
- ☐ SHOGUN WARRIORS #15
- ☐ STAR TREK #1
- ☐ STAR WARS #34
- ☐ TALES TO ASTONISH #5
- ☐ THOR #294
- ☐ WHAT IF? #20
- ☐ X-MEN #132

## Charlton

- ☐ ATTACK #22
- ☐ FIGHTIN' ARMY #145
- ☐ FIGHTIN' MARINES #150
- ☐ GHOST MANOR #50
- ☐ GHOSTLY TALES #142
- ☐ GUNFIGHTERS #60
- ☐ HAUNTED #49
- ☐ I LOVE YOU #130
- ☐ OUTLAWS OF THE WEST #88
- ☐ SECRET ROMANCE #49

## Warren

- ☐ CREEPY #115
- ☐ EERIE #109
- ☐ FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND #161
- ☐ 1994 #11
- ☐ ROOK #2
- ☐ VAMPIRELLA #85

## Western

- ☐ THE BLACK HOLE #1
- ☐ BUGS BUNNY #218
- ☐ DAISY AND DONALD #42
- ☐ DONALD DUCK #217
- ☐ FLASH GORDON #28
- ☐ HUEY, DEWEY AND LOUIE JUNIOR WOODCHUCKS #62
- ☐ LITTLE LULU #258
- ☐ POPEYE THE SAILOR #156
- ☐ PORKY PIG #94
- ☐ SUPER GOOF #58
- ☐ UNCLE SCROOGE #174
- ☐ WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES #474
- ☐ WALTER LANTZ WOODY WOODPECKER #188

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On sale in January, 1980
Subject to change

AMAZING ADVENTURES #6
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #204
THE AVENGERS #195
BATTLESTAR GALACTICA #15
CAPTAIN AMERICA #245
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #110
CRAZY #61
DAREDEVIL #164
THE DEFENDERS #83
EPIC ILLUSTRATED #1
FANTASTIC FOUR #218
FANTASY MASTERPIECES #6
FUN AND GAMES MAGAZINE #9
GHOST RIDER #44
THE HULK! #20
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #247
IRON MAN #134
MAN-THING #4
MARVEL PREVIEW #21 [Moon Knight]
MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #6 [Star-Lord]
MARVEL SUPER ACTION #19
MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL #16 [Dazzler]
MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #88
MARVEL TALES #115
MARVEL TEAM-UP #93
MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #63
MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #88
MASTER OF KUNG FU #88
THE MICRONAUTS #17
ROM #6
THE SAVAGE SHE-HULK #4
THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #51

SHOGUN WARRIORS #16
THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #42
SPIDER-WOMAN #26
SPIDEY SUPER STORIES #46
STAR TREK #2
STAR WARS #35
SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP #17
TALES TO ASTONISH #6
THOR #295
THE TOMB OF DRACULA #4
X-MEN #133

CREEPY #116
EERIE #110
FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND #162
VAMPIRELLA #86

- HEAVY METAL #36 [V3#10]
NATIONAL LAMPOON #120 [V2#20]

BATTLE OF THE PLANETS #6
BEEP BEEP, THE ROAD RUNNER #89
BEETLE BAILEY #132
BUCK ROGERS #7
CHIP 'N' DALE #65
DAFFY DUCK #128
DAISY AND DONALD #43
DONALD DUCK #218
LOONEY TUNES #31
MICKEY MOUSE #205
TOM AND JERRY #328
UNCLE SCROOGE #175
WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES #475
WINNIE-THE-POOH #18

ACTION COMICS #507
ADVENTURE COMICS #471
ALL-OUT WAR #5
BATMAN #323
THE BEST OF DC #5 [Best of 1979]
THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD #162
DC COMICS PRESENTS #21
DC SPECIAL BLUE-RIBBON DIGEST #2 [Flash]
DETECTIVE COMICS #490
THE FLASH #285
GHOSTS #88
GREEN LANTERN #128
HOUSE OF MYSTERY #280
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SUPER FRIENDS #32
SUPERMAN #347
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UNKNOWN SOLDIER #239
WARLORD #33
WEIRD WAR TALES #87
WEIRD WESTERN TALES #67
WONDER WOMAN #267

BILLY THE KID #136
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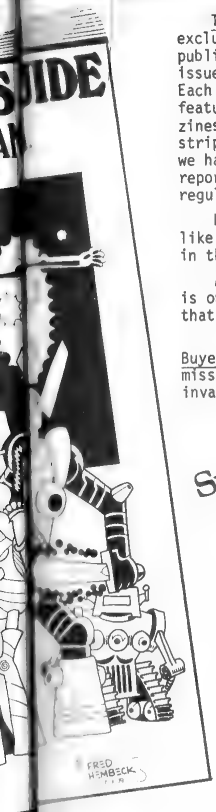


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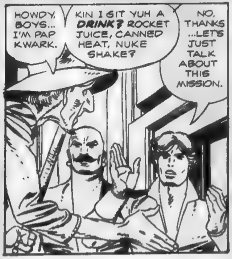

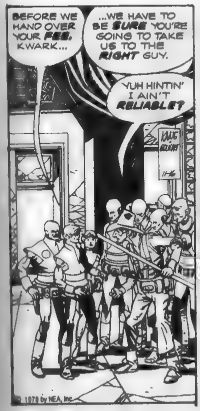

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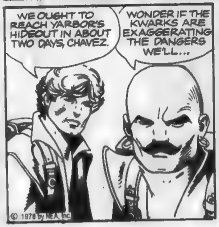

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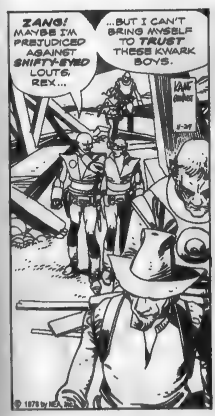

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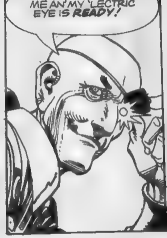

# The Menomonee Falls Gazette

# STAR HAWKS
## by Ron Goulart & Gil Kane

# The Menomonee Falls Gazette

# FANDOM CONFIDENTIAL

## with Jim Engel & Chuck Fiala

## this month: REPORT FROM HOLLYWOOD

PACO & THE WIZ PORTRAYED BY RUSS VAN DYKE

# TCR Top 100 Comic Books

| This mo. | Last mo. | Title, number<br>Publisher, format, special features, price if not 40¢ | No. sold |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6 | THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN No. 200<br>Marvel; 52 pages; 75¢ | 6821 |
| 2 | 2 | X-MEN No. 129<br>Marvel | 5056 |
| 3 | 1 | KOM No. 2<br>Marvel-Parker Bros. | 4232 |
| 4 | 5 | THE AVENGERS No. 190<br>Marvel | 4084 |
| 5 | 1* | HOWARD THE DUCK No. 2<br>Marvel; black and white; $1.25 | 4078 |
| 6 | 4 | THE MICRONAUTS No. 13<br>Marvel-Mego | 4076 |
| 7 | 8 | FANTASTIC FOUR No. 214<br>Marvel | 3944 |
| 8 | – | THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERBOY No. 1<br>DC | 3732 |
| 9 | 10 | CONAN THE BARBARIAN No. 106<br>Marvel-Robert E. Howard | 3635 |
| 10 | 18* | MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL No. 13<br>Marvel; color mag; Warriors of the Shadow Realm, $1.50 | 3427 |
| 11 | 9 | STAR WARS No. 31<br>Marvel-20th Century Fox | 3209 |
| 12 | 1* | MAN-THING No. 2<br>Marvel | 3101 |
| 13 | 13 | MARVEL TEAM-UP No. 89<br>Marvel, Spider-Man and Nightcrawler | 2957 |
| 14 | – | FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL No. 14<br>Marvel; 52 pages; 75¢ | 2955 |
| 15 | 14 | THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN No. 38<br>Marvel | 2878 |
| 16 | 18 | BATTLESTAR GALACTICA No. 11<br>Marvel-Universal | 2872 |
| 17 | 16 | IRON MAN No. 130<br>Marvel | 2853 |
| 18 | 19 | MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE No. 59<br>Marvel; Thing and Human Torch | 2517 |
| 19 | 22 | THOR No. 291<br>Marvel | 2517 |
| 20 | 21 | THE INCREDIBLE HULK No. 243<br>Marvel | 2385 |
| 21 | 20 | SPIDER-WOMAN No. 22<br>Marvel | 2357 |
| 22 | 25 | THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN No. 47<br>Marvel-Robert E. Howard; black & white mag; $1.25 | 2349 |
| 23 | 23 | SHOGUN WARRIORS No. 12<br>Marvel-Mattel | 2346 |
| 24 | 26 | THE DEFENDERS No. 79<br>Marvel | 2324 |
| 25 | 12* | MARVEL SPOTLIGHT No. 4<br>Marvel, featuring Captain Marvel | 2243 |
| 26 | 30 | WARLORD No. 29<br>DC | 2317 |
| 27 | 26* | DAREDEVIL No. 162<br>Marvel | 2180 |
| 28 | 29 | CAPTAIN AMERICA No. 241<br>Marvel | 2121 |
| 29 | 28 | FANTASY MASTERPIECES No. 2<br>Marvel; 52 pages; reprints the Silver Surfer; 75¢ | 2077 |
| 30 | 34 | THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES No. 259<br>DC | 2075 |
| 31 | 34 | MASTER OF KUNG FU No. 84<br>Marvel | 1996 |
| 32 | 38 | GHOST RIDER No. 40<br>Marvel | 1749 |
| 33 | 42 | JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA No. 174<br>DC | 1663 |
| 34 | 40 | GREEN LANTERN No. 124<br>DC | 1612 |
| 35 | 36 | DC COMICS PRESENTS No. 17<br>DC; features Superman and Firestorm | 1600 |
| 36 | 35 | AMAZING ADVENTURES No. 2<br>Marvel; reprints X-Men | 1589 |
| 37 | 41* | ADVENTURE COMICS No. 467<br>DC; 64 pages; $1.00 | 1525 |
| 38 | 39 | SUPERMAN No. 343<br>DC | 1479 |
| 39 | 43 | BATMAN No. 319<br>DC | 1440 |
| 40 | 37 | HEAVY METAL Volume 3 No. 7 [No. 34]<br>HMC; color magazine; $1.50 | 1426 |
| 41 | 47 | THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD No. 157<br>DC; featuring Batman and Wonder Woman | 1419 |
| 42 | 41 | ACTION COMICS No. 503<br>DC | 1407 |
| 43 | 45 | THE FLASH No. 281<br>DC | 1332 |
| 44 | 46 | TALES TO ASTONISH No. 2<br>Marvel; reprints Sub-Mariner | 1312 |
| 45 | 21* | THE TOMB OF DRACULA No. 2<br>Marvel; black and white magazine; $1.25 | 1307 |
| 46 | 36* | THE HULK! No. 18<br>Marvel; color magazine; $1.50 | 1191 |
| 47 | 18* | MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL No. 14<br>Marvel; color mag; movie Memoirs; $1.50 | 1178 |
| 48 | 48* | 1984 No. 10<br>Warren; black and white magazine; $1.75 | 947 |
| 49 | 44* | THE SUPERMAN FAMILY No. 199<br>DC; 64 pages; $1.00 | 944 |
| 50 | 49 | WONDER WOMAN No. 263<br>DC | 905 |
| 51 | 51 | JONAH HEX No. 32<br>DC | 781 |
| 52 | 43* | MARVEL TREASURY EDITION No. 24<br>Marvel; reblsid; $2.00; starring the Hulk | 717 |
| 53 | 50 | MARVEL TALES No. 111<br>Marvel; Spider-Man reprints | 711 |
| 54 | 52 | MARVEL SUPER ACTION No. 15<br>Marvel; The Avengers reprints | 605 |
| 55 | 54 | MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS No. 84<br>Marvel; Fantastic Four reprints | 582 |
| 56 | 53 | UNCLE SCROOGE No. 171<br>Gold Key-Walt Disney; reprints | 562 |
| 57 | 51* | MARVEL SUPER-HEROES No. 86<br>Marvel; Hulk reprints | 530 |
| 58 | 52* | VAMPIRELLA No. 83<br>Warren; black and white magazine; $1.75 | 463 |
| 59 | 55 | WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES No. 471<br>Gold Key-Walt Disney; half reprints | 443 |
| 60 | 53* | ALL-OUT WAR No. 3<br>DC; 64 pages, $1.00 | 429 |
| 61 | 58* | CREEPY No. 113<br>Warren; black and white magazine; $1.75 | 420 |
| 62 | 50 | JONAH HEX AND OTHER WESTERN TALES No. 3<br>DC; digest; 96 pages; 95¢ | 413 |
| 63 | 58 | WEIRD WESTERN TALES No. 63<br>DC | 402 |
| 64 | 59 | EERIE No. 107<br>Warren; black and white magazine; $1.75 | 400 |
| 65 | 46* | THE BEST OF DC No. 3<br>DC; digest; featuring Super Friends; 96 pages; 95¢ | 382 |
| 66 | 60 | WEIRD WAR TALES No. 83<br>DC | 374 |
| 67 | 56 | SUPER FRIENDS No. 28<br>DC | 363 |
| 68 | 57 | FUN AND GAMES MAGAZINE No. 5<br>Marvel | 356 |
| 69 | 66 | UNKNOWN SOLDIER No. 235<br>DC | 350 |
| 70 | 54* | SPIDER SUPER STORIES No. 44<br>Marvel-CTW; no ads | 348 |
| 71 | 61 | MEN OF WAR No. 24<br>DC | 318 |
| 72 | 62* | BUCK ROGERS No. 5<br>Gold Key-Robert Dille | 307 |
| 73 | 62 | SGT. ROCK No. 336<br>DC | 307 |
| 74 | 65 | HOUSE OF MYSTERY No. 276<br>DC | 302 |
| 75 | 63 | DONALD DUCK No. 214<br>Gold Key-Walt Disney | 294 |
| 76 | 68* | THE UNEXPECTED No. 195<br>DC; 64 pages; $1.00 | 274 |
| 77 | 68 | SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE No. 20<br>DC | 257 |
| 78 | 70 | GHOSTS No. 84<br>DC | 245 |
| 79 | 73* | MICKEY MOUSE No. 202<br>Gold Key-Walt Disney; reprints | 206 |
| 80 | 76* | HUEY, DEWEY AND LOUIE No. 60<br>Gold Key-Walt Disney | 205 |
| 81 | 73* | BATTLE OF THE PLANETS No. 4<br>Gold Key-Sandy Frank | 191 |
| 82 | 72 | THE BEAGLE BOYS VS. UNCLE SCROOGE No. 10<br>Gold Key-Walt Disney | 169 |
| 83 | 71 | POPEYE THE SAILOR No. 153<br>Gold Key-King Features; reprints | 137 |
| 84 | 77 | CRAZY No. 57<br>Marvel; black and white magazine, 75¢ | 127 |
| 85 | 80* | UFO AND OUTER SPACE No. 24<br>Gold Key; reprints | 126 |
| 86 | -- | CASPER'S TV SHOWTIME No. 1<br>Harvey | 122 |
| 87 | 86 | TOM AND JERRY No. 325<br>Gold Key-Lawn Inc.; reprints | 115 |
| 88 | 89 | TWEETY AND SYLVESTER No. 100<br>Gold Key-Warner Bros. | 108 |
| 89 | 90 | THE PINK PANTHER No. 71<br>Gold Key-MGM-Geoffrey | 107 |
| 90 | 95* | BEETLE BAILEY No. 130<br>Gold Key-King Features | 105 |
| 91 | 86* | BULLWINKLE AND ROCKIE No. 24<br>Gold Key-Jay Ward; reprints | 105 |
| 92 | 91* | WINNIE THE POOH No. 16<br>Gold Key-Walt Disney | 104 |
| 93 | 88 | WALTER LANTZ WOODY WOODPECKER No. 185<br>Gold Key-Walter Lantz | 104 |
| 94 | 91 | BEEP BEEP, THE ROAD RUNNER No. 86<br>Gold Key-Warner Bros. | 103 |
| 95 | 93* | DAFFY DUCK No. 126<br>Gold Key-Warner Bros. | 103 |
| 96 | 90* | SUPER GOOF No. 56<br>Gold Key-Walt Disney; reprints | 103 |
| 97 | 87 | BUGS BUNNY No. 218<br>Gold Key-Warner Bros. | 102 |
| 98 | 81* | LOONEY TUNES No. 29<br>Gold Key-Warner Bros. | 102 |
| 99 | 94 | RICHIE RICH No. 186<br>Harvey | 102 |
| 100 | -- | RICHIE RICH CASH No. 33<br>Harvey | 100 |

* - Last rating for title published less than monthly

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# 1979 ALLEY Awards

After last year's (unintentional) dry run, we think we've learned enough to actually mail out awards this year and not be embarrassed by the low participation percentage. As before, these awards are being presented for excellence in the field of comic art and are not being presented as "Best" or "Favorite" since it is possible for more than one person to be cited in each category. Also, this year THE COMIC READER, Michael Tiefenbacher and Jerome Sinkovec are ineligible for Category 3 awards, while everyone else who has provided work for TCR IS eligible.

RULES: You may vote for two people in each category. Please specify for which comic book or strip the person is being cited for. Only one ballot per person will be counted. Only ballots clipped from TCR or photocopied facsimiles or facsimile ballots on a separate sheet of paper from any other correspondence or subscription renewal will be counted. All ballots must be received by us by February 1, 1980. Mail all ballots to: AWARDS, STREET ENTERPRISES, P.O. BOX 255, MENOMONEE FALLS, WISCONSIN 53051. Winners will be announced in the March issue.

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE FIELD OF COMIC ART FOR 1979

CATEGORY 1: NEWSSTAND COMIC BOOKS AND MAGAZINES
(Work appearing in magazines published by Archie, Charlton, Comely, DC, Dell, EC, Fawcett, Gold Key, Harvey, Heavy Metal, Marvel, Stanley, Warren, etc. Work released in or dated 1979 is eligible.)

A1. EDITOR

A. _____ for _____

B. _____ for _____

A2. WRITER - Drama

A. _____ for _____

B. _____ for _____

A3. WRITER - Comedy

A. _____ for _____

B. _____ for _____

A4. ARTIST - Drama

A. _____ for _____

B. _____ for _____

A5. ARTIST - Comedy

A. _____ for _____

B. _____ for _____

A6. INKER - Comedy or drama

A. _____ for _____

B. _____ for _____

A7. OTHER - Lettering, coloring, publishing, production

A. _____ for _____

B. _____ for _____

NAME _____

AGE _____ NO. OF COMICS BOUGHT PER MO. _____

DEADLINE FOR BALLOTS: FEBRUARY 1, 1980

CATEGORY 2: COMIC STRIPS APPEARING IN U.S. NEWSPAPERS

B1. WRITER - Drama

A. _____ for _____

B. _____ for _____

B2. WRITER - Comedy

A. _____ for _____

B. _____ for _____

B3. ARTIST - Drama

A. _____ for _____

B. _____ for _____

B4. ARTIST - Comedy

A. _____ for _____

B. _____ for _____

CATEGORY 3: FAN PUBLICATIONS (Issued in 1979)

C1. PUBLISHER (Overall content of fanzine)

A. _____ for _____

B. _____ for _____

C2. WRITER

A. _____ for _____

B. _____ for _____

C3. ARTIST

A. _____ for _____

B. _____ for _____

CATEGORY 4: UNDERGROUND COMIX (Issued in 1979)

D1. WRITER

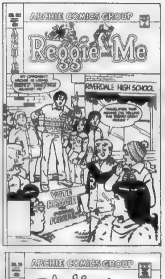
A. _____ for _____

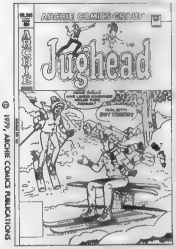
B. _____ for _____

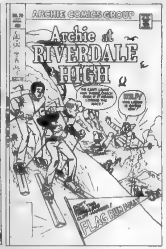
D2. ARTIST

A. _____ for _____

B. _____ for _____





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## Archie Coming Attractions

ARCHIE'S JOKEBOOK No. 266, March. [12/25]

ARCHIE'S PALS 'N' GALS No. 139, March. [12/25]

BETTY AND VERONICA No. 291, March. [12/25]

PEP No. 359, March. [12/25]

ARCHIE No. 290, March. [1/1]

JUGHEAD No. 298, March. [1/1]

LAUGH No. 348, March. [1/1]

LITTLE ARCHIE No. 152, March. [1/1]

ARCHIE'S TV LAUGH-OUT No. 74, March. [1/8]

LAUGH COMICS DIGEST No. 27, March. This issue features a KATY KEENE story, another SUPER DUCK adventure and THE JAGUAR in "The Return of the Cat Girl" from JAGUAR #4. [1/8]

LIFE WITH ARCHIE No. 212, March. [1/8]

REGGIE AND ME No. 121, March. [1/8]

ARCHIE AT RIVERDALE HIGH No. 70, March. [1/15]

BETTY AND ME No. 109, March. [1/15]

JUGHEAD JONES COMICS DIGEST No. 12, March. [1/15]

JUGHEAD WITH ARCHIE COMICS DIGEST No. 37, March. [1/15]

## Warren Coming Comics

Beginning with this month's issue, 1984 will be known as 1994.

CREEPY No. 115, February. This issue's stories: "Gabriel's Horn" by Roger McKenzie and Leo Duranona; "The Last Labor of Hercules" by Budd Lewis and Artist A2-120; "Cyrano" by Bob Toomey and Mike Saenz; "Rapid Fire Angel" by Gerry Boudreau and Abel Laxamana; "Et Tu, Brutus?" by Nick Cuti, Val Mayerik and Ruby Nebres; and "War Children" by Gerry Boudreau and Val Mayerik. Saenz did the cover. [1/1]

FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND No. 161, February. [1/1]

VAMPIRELLA No. 85, February. Vampirella appears in "Flame Spirit" by Bob Toomey, John and Val Lakey. Other stories include: "Conscience of the King" by Budd Lewis and Auraleon; "Curly's Gold" by Michael Fleisher and Leo Duranona; "A Green Phoenix" by Laurie Sutton and Noly Zamora; and "Lily White and Lavender" by Gerry Boudreau and Alex Nino. Paul Gualcy did the cover. [1/1]

EERIE No. 109, February. [1/8]

THE ROOK No. 2, February. [1/8]

1994 No. 11, February. [1/8]

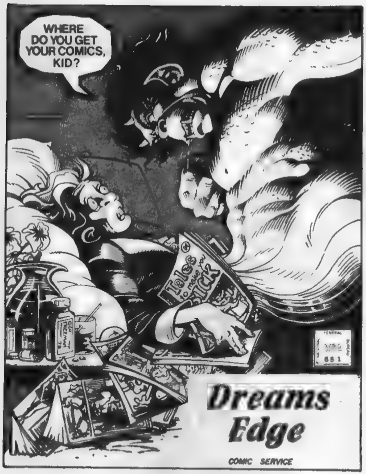
## Charlton Coming Comics

GHOSTLY TALES No. 142, March. [1/3]

SECRET ROMANCE No. 49, March. [1/3]

FIGHTIN' ARMY No. 145, April. [1/10]

OUTLAWS OF THE WEST No. 88, April. [1/10]

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GHOST MANOR No. 50, April. [1/17]

GUNFIGHTERS No. 60, April. [1/17]

FIGHTIN' MARINES No. 150, April. [1/24]

HAUNTED No. 49, April. [1/24]

ATTACK No. 22, May. [1/31]

I LOVE YOU No. 130, May. [1/31]

DC
Coming

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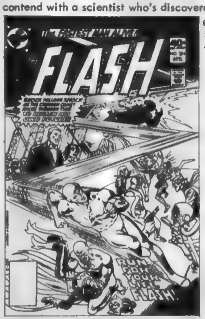
BATMAN No. 322, April. "Chaos -- Coming And Going" is by Len Wein, Irv Novick and Vince Colletta. Captain Boomerang plans to extort $1,000,000 from Gotham's top newspaper. Dick Giordano did the cover. [1/8]

DC COMICS PRESENTS No. 20, April. "Inferno From The Sky" is by Denny O'Neil, Jose Garcia Lopez and Joe Giella. Superman and Green Arrow must contend with a scientist who's discovered

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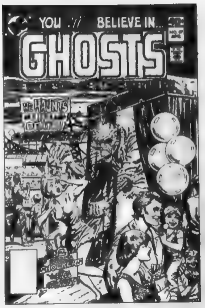


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a gas substitute, but will only reveal it if he's made president. Ross Andru and Dick Giordano did the cover. [1/8]

THE FLASH No. 284, April. "Run, Flash, Run For Your Life" is by Cary Bates, Don Heck and Frank Chiaramonte. The Flash, racing through Limbo to relive his life, encounters the Lord of Limbo. Ross Andru and Dick Giordano did the cover. [1/8]

GHOSTS No. 87, April. This issue includes: "Floating Coffin" by George Kashdan and Gerry Talaoc, and "The Phantom Freak" by Kashdan and Fred Carrillo. Luis Dominguez did the cover. [1/8]

G.I. COMBAT No. 219, April-May. The issue's trio of Haunted Tank tales includes "Funeral For A Tanker," "Shoot-Out At Flak Alley" and "Life and Death of A Tank" all by Robert Kanigher and Sam Glanzman. The O.S.S. adventure is called "What's The Price of a Spy?" and is by Bart Regan and E.R. Cruz. Other stories are "Battle Without End" by George Kashdan and Jerry Grandenetti and "Booby Trap For A General" by Jan Laurie and M. Barnes. Joe Kubert did the cover. [1/8]

JONAH HEX No. 35, April. "The Fort Charlotte Brigade" is by Michael Fleisher, Dick Ayers and Luis Dominguez. Jonah's characteristically unlucky days as a Civil War lieutenant are recounted. Dominguez did the cover. [1/8]

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JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA No. 177, April. "The Graveyard Gambit" is by Gerry Conway, Dick Dillin and Frank McLaughlin. Four seemingly unrelated cases are actually tied together by the return of Despero. Also: a surprise guest hero. Rich Buckler and Dick Giordano did the cover. [1/8]

SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE No. 23, April. Stories in this issue: "The Creeping Red Death" by Carl Wessler and the Redondo studio; "Blaze of Darkness" by George Kashdan and Fred Carrillo, and "Return of the Killer's

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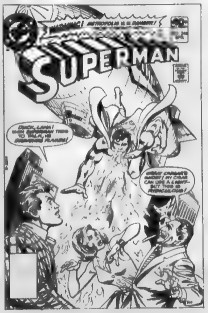
Ghost" by Carl Wessler and Ramona Fradon. Luis Dominguez did the cover. [1/8]

SUPERMAN No. 346, April. "Superman's Streak of Bad Luck" is by Gerry Conway, Curt Swan and Frank Chiaramonte. Amos Fortune creates a bad luck ray which, among other things, causes Superman to breathe fire whenever he opens his mouth to speak. Ross Andru and Dick Giordano did the cover. [1/8]

WEIRD WAR TALES No. 86, April. This issue's slate includes "Freed From The Depths" by Bill Kelley and Ruben Yandoc, and "Into Thin Air" by Jay Zilber, Jack Sparling and Joe Giella. Joe Kubert did the cover. [1/8]

WONDER WOMAN No. 266, April. "The Uninvited" is by Gerry Conway, Jose Delbo and Vince Colletta. In another untold tale from her NASA days, Wonder Woman and a fellow astronaut crash in an uncharted Rocky Mountains lair of dinosaur creatures. Also, Wonder Girl solos in "The Perfect Crime" by E. Nelson Bridwell, Ric Estrada and John Calnan. WG investigates the death of former Teen Titans sponsor Mr. Jupiter. Ross Andru and Dick Giordano did the cover. [1/8]



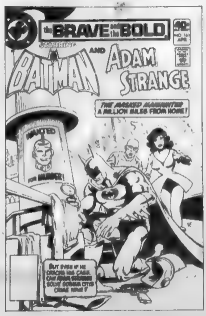
WORLD'S FINEST COMICS No. 262, April-May. Superman and Batman lead off with "Power of the Pi-Meson Man" by Denny O'Neil and Joe Staton, as a blind child "sees" an invisible man; Green Arrow and Black Canary star in "Gravitational Boomerang" by Gerry Conway and Romeo Tanghal, battling Auntie Gravity; Aquaman rejoins the line-up in "Siren of the Sargasso" by Bob Rozakis, Don Newton and Dan Adkins; Hawkman and Adam Strange appear in "The Ghost of Adam Strange" by J.M. DeMatteis and Ken Landgraf with Armando Gil; with Captain Marvel rounding out the picture with "Captain Marvel of 7,000 B.C." by E. Nelson Bridwell, Don Newton and Dave Hunt. Ross Andru and Dick Giordano

did the cover. [1/8]

ACTION COMICS No. 506, April. "The Children's Exodus From Earth" is by Cary Bates, Curt Swan and Frank Chiaramonte. A Pied Piper creature takes over the will of the children of Metropolis. Ross Andru and Dick Giordano did the cover. [1/22]

ADVENTURE COMICS No. 470, April. "To Die A-Borning" is by Paul Levitz, Steve Ditko and Romeo Tanghal. The origin of Starman is revealed. Also, Plastic Man stars in a story against The Trowel as told by Martin Pasko, Joe Staton and Bob Smith. Ross Andru and Dick Giordano did the cover. [1/22]

THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD No. 161, April. "A Tale of Two Heroes" is by Gerry Conway and Jim Aparo. Batman and Adam Strange switch places, with Batman attempting to clear Adam of a murder charge on Rann, while Adam must aid Commissioner Gordon in the tracking of a criminal. Aparo did the cover. [1/22]

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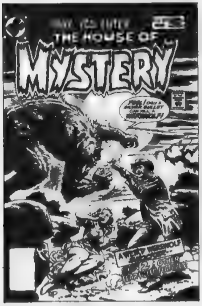
DETECTIVE COMICS No. 489, April. Batman in "Creatures of the Night" by J.M. DeMatteis, Irv Novick and Vince Colletta leads off the issue battling real bats; Batgirl and Robin follow in "The Mind Warp Mystery" by Jack C. Harris, Don Heck and Vince Colletta, with Robin attempting to cope with a

Batgirl with no memory; Alfred stars in "The Bogus Butlers" by Bob Rozakis, Jose Delbo and Bob Smith; another segment of Tales of Gotham City called "When Inmates Run The Madhouse" by Paul Kupperberg, Irv Novick and Steve Mitchell is presented; The Atom makes an appearance in "Computer Crisis" by Rozakis, Alex Saviuk and Colletta;




and Batman appears in another story, "Where Strike The Assassins" by Denny O'Neil, Don Newton and Dan Adkins. Ross Andru and Dick Giordano did the cover. [1/22]

GREEN LANTERN No. 127, April. "Battleground: Oa" is by Denny O'Neil, Joe Staton and Frank McLaughlin. It's a battle royal when the entire Green Lantern Corps takes on the

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deadly Weaponers of Qward. Brian Bolland did the cover. [1/22]

HOUSE OF MYSTERY No. 279, April. This issue's stories: "His Brother's Keeper" by Jack Oleck, Bernard Baily and Wayne Howard; "Trial By Fury" by Carl Wessler and Alex Saviuk; and "Every Shroud Has A Silver Lining" by Mike W. Barr and Noly Zamora. Luis Dominguez did the cover. [1/22]

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES No. 262, April. "The Planet That Captured The Legion" is by Gerry Conway and Jim Sherman. The Legion must wipe out an entire planet or die themselves. Sherman did the cover. [1/22]

THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERBOY No. 4, April. "Look At Me, World -- I'm Astralad" is by Cary Bates, Kurt Schaffenberger and Dave Hunt. Superboy continues the conflict with the young hero from the future. Schaffenberger and Hunt did the cover. [1/22]

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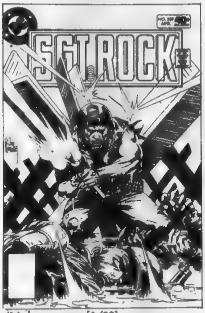
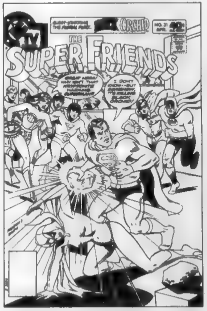
SGT. ROCK No. 339, April. "I Was Here Before" is by Robert Kanigher and Frank Redondo. Rock and Easy hit Omaha Beach. Other stories include "The Collector" by Bill Kelley and Rick Veitch, and "Final Encounter" by Kanigher and Veitch. Joe Kubert




did the cover. [1/22]

SUPER FRIENDS No. 31, April. "How To Trap A Black Orchid" is by E. Nelson Bridwell, Ramona Fradon and Bob Smith. For some reason, Black Orchid -- and not Superman -- is vulnerable to the radiation from Kryptonite. Fradon and Smith did the cover. [1/22]




TIME WARP No. 4, April-May. The issue's contents include: "Pen Pal" by Bob Haney and Fred Carrillo; "The Hole In Reality's Heart" by George Kashdan and Mike Nassey; "The Most Special of Effects" by J. Marc DeMatteis, Don Newton and Steve Mitchell; "A Switch In Time" by David Alliikas and Steve Ditko; "The Uncommon Cold" by Kashdan and Ernesto Patricio; "The Last Megathus" by Arnold Drake and

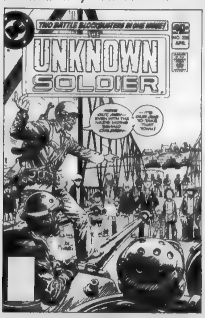
Jerry Grandenetti; and "Asteroid Treachery" by Kashdan and Patricio. Michael W. Kaluta did the cover. [1/22]

THE UNEXPECTED No. 197, April. The Unexpected tale is "Last Laugh of a Corpse" by Carl Wessler and Ernesto Patricio; the Witching Hour segment is "A Pound of Flesh And Blood" by George Kashdan and Ruben Yandoc; and House of Secrets is represented by "My Ghost Writer -- The Vampire" by

Scott Edelman and Tenny Henson. Luis Dominguez did the cover. [1/22]

UNKNOWN SOLDIER No. 241, April. "Operation: Pied Piper" is by Bob Haney, Dick Ayers and Gerry Talaoc. The Nazis use a group of children as defense against Allied invasion. Also, "Snowman In The Oven" by Bob Rozakis, Dick Ayers and John Celardo is included. Joe Kubert did the cover. [1/22]

WARLORD No. 32, April. "Land of the Titans" is by Mike Grell and Vince

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Colletta. Travis finds himself amongst a civilization of giants. Grell did the cover. [1/22]

WEIRD WESTERN TALES No. 66, April. "The Devil's Pay" is by Gerry Conway, Dick Ayers and Romeo Tanghal. Scalphunter enters the world of the industrial sweat-shop. Luis Dominguez did the cover. [1/22]

MACHINE MAN No. 14, April. "The Man Who Walked Through Walls" is by Marv Wolfman and Steve Ditko. MM encounters a super-strong bank robber in Marv Wolfman's final issue. John Byrne and Steve Ditko did the cover. [1/1]

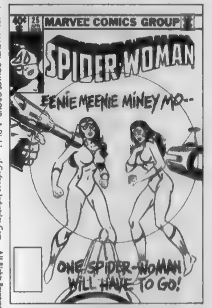
MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE No. 62, April. "The Taking of Counter-Earth" is by Mark Gruenwald, Jerry Bingham and Gene Day. Counter-Earth is missing, the High Evolutionary is dead and the Thing, Starhawk, Moondragon and Alicia want to know why. George Perez and Joe Sinnott did the cover. [1/1]

THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN No. 50, March. "Conan The Liberator, Part II"is by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and Tony DeZuniga, adapted from the novel by L. Sprague deCamp and Lin Carter. "Swords Across The Alimane" continues Conan's try at the crown of Aquilonia. Nestor Redondo did the cover. [1/1]

SHOGUN WARRIORS No. 15, April. "The Insider" is by Steven Grant, Mike Vosburg, and Bruce D. Patterson. Richard Carson is replaced by a villainous lookalike. Herb Trimpe and Patterson did the cover. [1/1]

SPIDER-WOMAN No. 25, April. "The Gamesman Breaks Out" is by Mike Fleisher and Steven Leialoha. Spider-Woman learns the truth about the Gamesman and his successor. Jim Mooney did the cover. [1/1]

STAR TREK No. 1, April. "Star Trek The Motion Picture, Part 1" by Marv Wolfman, Dave Cockrum and Klaus Janson is reprinted from the MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL. Steve Leialoha did the cover. [1/1]

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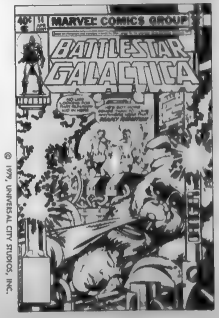
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN No. 203, April. "Bewitched, Bewildered and Bedazzled" is by Marv Wolfman, Keith Pollard and Jim Mooney. The Lightmaster uses the Dazzler as a pawn in his war against Spider-Man. Jim Mooney did the cover. [1/8]

BATTLESTAR GALACTICA No. 14, April. "Trial and Error" is by Roger McKenzie, Jim Mooney and Klaus Janson. The fleet deserts Starbuck in the void,

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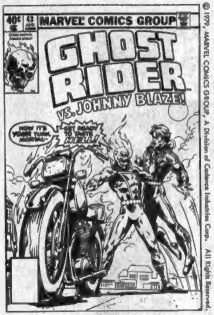


leaving him with his lady love. Hmmm... Walt Simonson did the cover. [1/8]

CAPTAIN AMERICA No. 244, April. "The Way of All Flesh" is by Roger McKenzie, Dan Perlin and Tom Sutton. Cap has his final battle with Adonis. Frank Miller and Al Milgrom did the cover. [1/8]

CRAZY No. 60, April. [1/8]

DOCTOR STRANGE No. 40, April. "Dawn of Death" is by Chris Claremont, Gene Colan, Dan Green and Ricardo Villamonte. Doc fights Azrael, the Angel of Death, who, in actuality, is but a pawn of Baron Mordo. Bob Layton did the cover. [1/8]

FUN AND GAMES MAGAZINE No. 8, April. More games and puzzles by Owen McCarron, who did the cover as well. [1/8]

GHOST RIDER No. 43, April. "Cloak of Crimson -- Soul of Dust" is by Michael Fleisher, Carmine Infantino and Ricardo Villamonte. A sorcerer separates Johnny Blaze from the Ghost Rider. Bob Budiansky and Jack Abel did the cover. [1/8]

THE MICRONAUTS No. 16, April. "Rendezvous in Sub-Atomic" is by Bill Mantlo, Howard Chaykin and Al Milgrom. The Micronauts team with the Fantastic Four to battle Psycho-Man. Michael Golden did the cover. [1/8]

THOR No. 294, April. "New Asgards For Old" is by Roy Thomas, Keith Pollard and Chic Stone. The origin of Asgard as we know it and the secret origin of Odin are revealed. Keith Pollard did the cover. [1/8]

THE AVENGERS No. 194, April. "Interlude" is by David Michelinie, George Perez and Joe Rubinstein. Selbe, an escapee from a local insane asylum, visits the Avengers' mansion. Perez and Rubinstein did the cover. [1/15]

CONAN THE BARBARIAN No. 109, April. "Sons of the Bear God" is by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and Ernie Chan. Who knew the Bear God was married? John Buscema and Jack Abel did the cover. [1/15]

FANTASY MASTERPIECES No. 5, April. "And Who Shall Mourn For Him?" is by Stan Lee, John Buscema and Sal Buscema, and originally appeared in SILVER SURFER #5. Buscema and Marie Severin did the cover. [1/15]

THE INCREDIBLE HULK No. 246, April. "The Hero And The Hulk" is by Bill Mantlo and Sal Buscema. Captain Marvel helps the Hulk return to the world of his beloved Jarella so he can give her a proper funeral only to have Glen Talbot try to trap him there forever. Al Milgrom and Jack Abel did the cover. [1/15]

MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS No. 87, April. "And Now -- The Thing" is by Stan Lee, John Buscema and Joe Sinnott and is from FANTASTIC FOUR #107. Buscema and Sinnott did the cover. [1/15]

POWER MAN No. 62, April. "One Must Die" is by Jo Duffy and Kerry Gammill. Who's been sleeping in Power Man's grave -- who killed Thunderbolt's brother -- and who's about to die any second? Gammill and Bob Layton did the cover. [1/15]

ROM No. 5, April. "A House Is Not A Home" is by Bill Mantlo and Sal Buscema. Rom and two human companions decide to seek shelter in a deserted house but it turns out to be more hostile a place than they imagined. Al Milgrom did the cover. [1/15]

TALES TO ASTONISH No. 5, April. "Watch Out For Tiger Shark" is by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and Frank Giacoia.

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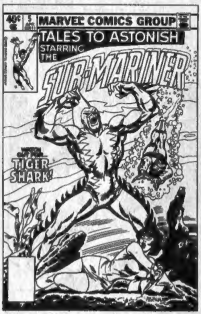
cola, and is from SUB-MARINER #5. Buscema and Giacoia did the cover. [1/15]

X-MEN No. 132, April. "Showdown With The Hellfire Club" is by Chris Claremont, John Byrne and Terry Austin. The X-Men find themselves on the losing end -- except for the Wolverine. Byrne and Austin did the cover. [1/15]

AMAZING ADVENTURES No. 5, April. From X-MEN #3, the first half of "Beware of the Blob" by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Paul Reinman is presented,

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as well as "The End... Or The Beginning" by Roy Thomas, Werner Roth and Herb Trimpe from X-MEN #42. Kirby and George Roussos did the cover. [1/22]

THE DEFENDERS No. 82, April. "Wizard Death" is by Ed Hannigan, Don Perlin and Joe Sinnott. Hulk, Doctor Strange and the Sub-Mariner face the dreaded Unnameable in Tunnelworld. Be sure to ask for him by name! Rich Buckler did the cover. [1/22]

FANTASTIC FOUR No. 217, April. "Masquerade" is by Bill Mantlo, John Byrne and Joe Sinnott. The secret of Herbie is finally revealed. Sinnott did the cover. [1/22]

HOWARD THE DUCK No. 4, April. The PLAYDUCK issue: "The Maltese Cockroach" by Bill Mantlo, Gene Colan and Dave Simons; "The Dreadcliff Cuckoos" by Mantlo, John Buscema and Klaus Janson; a PLAYDUCK interview with Truman Capoultry by Mark Gruenwaugh; "Old Drake's Tale" by Roger Stern; Duckmate of the Month fold-out; "Ducks In Bondage"; "Prisoner of Ducks" by Norman Mallard; Playduck reviews by Duckbill Mantlo; Playduck Advisor by Gruenwaugh; and a Playduck letters column. The cover is by John Pound. [1/22]

IRON MAN No. 133, April. "The Hero Within" is by David Michelinie, Jerry Bingham and Bob Layton. Ant Man guest stars in the aftermath of the battle with Hulk as Iron Man is trapped by his own armor. Layton did the cover. [1/22]

MARVEL PREMIERE No. 53, April. "The Ending, In Anger" is by Ed Hannigan, Jerry Bingham and Gene Day. The Black Panther uncovers the deadly secret of the Knights of the Golden Circle. Frank Miller and Joe Rubinstein did the cover. [1/22]

MARVEL SUPER ACTION No. 18, April. "Behold... The Vision" is by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and George Klein, and appeared originally in THE AVENGERS #57. Buscema did the cover. [1/22]

MARVEL TEAM-UP No. 92, April. "Fear" is by Steven Grant, Carmine Infantino and Mike Esposito. Hawkeye becomes a pawn of the third Mister Fear. [1/22]

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MASTER OF KUNG FU No. 87, April. "The Chrysalis and the Peacock" is by Doug Moench, Mick Zeck and Gene Day. The good guys battle Shang-Chi's sister and Zoran, the Weapons Master. Zeck and Joe Rubinstein did the cover. [1/22]

THE SAVAGE SHE-HULK No. 3, April. "She-Hulk: Murderer" is by David Kraft, Mike Vosburg and Chic Stone. She-Hulk thinks she may be going insane -- and the evidence would seem to back her up. Rich Buckler and Al Milgrom did the cover. [1/22]

SGT. FURY No. 157, April. "The Big Breakout" is by Gary Friedrich, Dick Ayers and John Severin, and originally appeared in SF #61. Ayers and Severin did the cover. [1/22]

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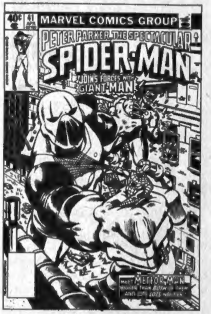
THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN No. 41, April. "Meteor Madness" is by Tom DeFalco and Jim Mooney. Spider-Man and Giant-Man battle Meteor Man, who's trying to go cosmic. Al Milgrom and Joe Rubinstein did the cover. [1/22]

STAR WARS No. 34, April. "Thunder In The Stars" is by Archie Goodwin, Carmine Infantino and Bob Wiacek. The Star Warriors rush to destroy the Empire's demonic Omega Effect and to overthrow the nefarious House of Taag. Infantino and Wiacek did the cover. [1/22]

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WHAT IF? No. 20, April. "What If The Avengers Had Fought The Kree-Skrull War Without Rick Jones? is by Tom DeFalco, Alan Kupperberg and Bruce Patterson. A nine issue epic is collapsed into the equivalent of two! Al Milgrom and Joe Sinnott did the cover. [1/22]

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